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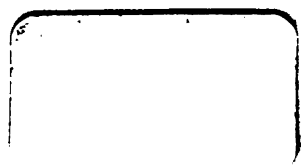
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**THE THIRTY-THIRD DIVISION**  
**VOLUME II**







THE GUNS TO THE FRONT

**ILLINOIS**  
*in the*  
**WORLD WAR**

**AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE  
THIRTY-THIRD DIVISION**

Prepared with the Coöperation and Under the Direction of the  
Commanding Officers of the Units Comprising the Division

**VOLUME II**

CHICAGO  
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1921



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**BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD L. KING**  
Commander of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade.



AMATEUR FISHERMEN AT NANCOIS-LE-PETIT

## The Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade

BY EDWARD L. KING

BRIGADIER GENERAL, U. S. A.



THE Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade, Thirty-third Division, was composed of the 129th and 130th Infantry Regiments, the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion and the brigade headquarters detachment. These organizations were formed from units of the Illinois National Guard whose home stations were outside the city of Chicago.

With the rest of the division, the Sixty-fifth Brigade was trained at Camp Logan. Intensive drill transformed the organization into a brigade of physically fit, well disciplined soldiers, ready for the service they were to perform so creditably in France. Several months of rigid training eliminated the unfit, and left only

men capable of and ready for hard duty.

The division reached France in the latter part of May, 1918, and was sent to a training area back of the lines. Although delayed somewhat by quarantine, the Sixty-fifth Brigade was able to spend most of June and July behind the British front, and received from seasoned Australians instructions in all the details of trench fighting. As the training proceeded, the



BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY R. HILL AT CAMP  
LOGAN

With his aide, Lieutenant John Sadler.

brigade moved closer to the front, and in small, then larger, details the men got their first taste of experience in the line itself.

The brigade was extremely fortunate in being placed with Australian troops for this preliminary training. The Thirty-third Division was the only American organization assigned to these splendid fighters, and the latter were anxious to show other British units how well they could fit men for active service. The Australians were excellent instructors. The Sixty-fifth Brigade owes much to them, for its achievements later were the fruits of the teachings received in those early days.

During the instruction period in the United States and France the brigade was commanded by Brigadier General Henry R. Hill, but in the

latter part of July he was transferred and later, while fighting bravely with the Thirty-second Division, he met a soldier's death. I assumed command of the brigade on the last day of July.

Early in August one regiment and the machine gun battalion of the brigade took over a portion of the line on the Somme, the left resting at Albert. The other regiment remained with the Australians for a little more training. The enemy opposite the Illinois troops proved to be more or less active, and the brigade distinguished itself.

The Sixty-fifth was in the line August 8, when the final Somme attack was started, and in the early days of that offensive either held a sector or supported attacking British troops.

Warning orders had been received for an advance with the British when, about August 20, American General Headquarters ordered the entire Thirty-third Division transferred to the American army.

The train movement to billets in the vicinity of Ligny-en-Barrois, about twenty-five kilometers southwest of St. Mihiel, was accomplished satisfactorily. Another and final schedule of intensive training was then enforced in preparation for offensive action. Men and officers went at the work with enthusiasm, and marked progress was made. The brigade had been scheduled to participate in the St. Mihiel drive, but at the last moment it was ordered to the Verdun front instead. A sector west of Verdun, including the famous Hill 304, where much desperate fighting had occurred, was occupied.

The brigade held this sector until September 26, when the great Meuse-Argonne offensive was launched. The Sixty-fifth was placed in the divisional reserve at the outset, following the attacking troops until, on the 28th, it took over a portion of the front to the left of the rest of the Thirty-third Division, where the Eightieth Division was fighting. The brigade carried the line to the bend in the Meuse River between Vilosnes-sur-Meuse and Brioules-sur-Meuse, where both regiments and the machine gun battalion were established, echeloned in depth.

For several days the position was a precarious one, well in advance of the allied lines on either flank, and constituting an exposed salient into which the enemy sent gas and high explosive shells from three directions. The brigade was ordered not to attempt a forward movement, but hung to its



GRAVE OF GENERAL  
HENRY R. HILL



THE CROSS AT THE EXTREME LEFT MARKS GENERAL HILL'S GRAVE

Offered the choice of retaining his rank, with a safe post at home, or a majority in the line, he chose the latter, and was killed while leading his men of the 128th Infantry, near Eclisfontaine, on October 15, 1918



#### AT THE BRIGADE POST OF COMMAND

During the maneuvers at Willerancourt, September 2, 1918.  
General Bell and General King with members of their staffs.

lines while patrolling and endeavoring to assist the advance of troops on its left.

The ordeal through which the brigade passed in holding this position was severe, but the conduct of all ranks in submitting stoically to the enemy's incessant pounding won the admiration of all who understood the conditions.

Early in October four infantry battalions and some machine gun companies of the brigade participated in the attack made by the rest of the division on the east

bank of the Meuse. The remainder of the brigade held the original front.

About October 15 the entire Sixty-fifth Brigade was transferred to the east side of the Meuse, the Sixty-sixth Brigade taking over the positions on the west bank.

From this point the forward movement was continued in the face of bitter resistance. The line was steadily advanced in a manner reflecting great glory on the Sixty-fifth. One battalion of the brigade attacked successfully three times before the division on the right had been able to gain its objective.

For five days the brigade was again subjected to severe shelling, which did not abate until the 20th, when a French division came up in relief. The conduct of all units was gallant. The enemy never found the brigade unready to respond, and the supporting American artillery was given information as to targets quickly and accurately.

No less praiseworthy than the work of the troops occupying the



DUGOUT AT MONTZEVILLE

front lines in this fierce campaign was the behavior of the brigade's supply service. Though under incessant bombardment day and night, the men engaged in that service obtained and delivered all supplies of food and ammunition. They went forward in all weather, in utter darkness, through shell fire, over badly torn roads, and they never failed. The cooks and teamsters, with their assistants, were entitled to the same credit as their more fortunate comrades of the front line. Equally gallant was the work of the runners, linesmen and others in the service of communication.

On being relieved from the line north of Verdun, the brigade was granted three or four days of rest. Much of the time had to be spent on the march, but the relief was enough to fit the brigade for service in a sector south of Verdun to which it was sent.

This sector contained the famous Eparges position, where the fighting had been as fierce as any along the front, especially in underground battles. Before us lay the plain of the Woëvre, with Metz, Conflans, and Briey in the distance.

One regiment was sent to the line. The other was held in the rear for rest and training. Active patrolling was at once inaugurated, with great success. No Man's Land became "Sixty-fifth Brigade Land," for the Illinoisans took it over. Two successful major raids, to say nothing of lesser ones, resulted in losses to the enemy, in killed, wounded and prisoners, of 100 per cent and 95 per cent, respectively.

From a German officer captured in one of the raids we learned that the enemy had been led to believe the troops coming to oppose them were unseasoned.

"But," he added, "when we saw your daylight patrols moving out we knew we were not opposed by any 'green' division."

Praise from an enemy is not always unpleasant.

On the morning of November 11 the brigade attacked as a part of the American Second Army.



DUGOUTS AT MOUILLY  
Used by the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade.





#### STAFF OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Front row, left to right: Major Roane Waring, adjutant; Brigadier General Edward L. King, commanding; Lieutenant Spencer McKeon, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant Norman R. Hayes, intelligence officer.

Rear row: Lieutenants Oscar Strahan, signal officer; Raymond Randall, veterinarian; John A. Prosser, aide-de-camp; Henry Bullington, supply officer.

It had taken a good bite out of the Hindenburg Line before the news of the armistice came with the order to cease firing. The brigade commander was later informed by the commander of the Second Army that the Sixty-fifth would have occupied the point of attack had not the signing of the armistice prevented the great offensive planned by Marshal Foch to commence on November 14.

After the armistice the brigade enjoyed a short rest and was refitted. Then, with the rest of the division, it began the march toward the Rhine.

A portion of the brigade entered Germany, but later was diverted to the northern part of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, where it settled down with the rest of the organization in billets in and around Ettelbrück.

A general let-down in discipline had been feared as a consequence of the armistice, and to forestall this a special appeal was made for maintenance of the high standard already established. The brigade made a ready

response. No better or higher discipline was ever maintained by any army than that which the willingness and cheerfulness of the Sixty-fifth Brigade made possible.

The brigade transport, a source of pride from the time of its service with the British, won new honors in Luxemburg by helping the Thirty-third Division win the reputation of having the best transport in the American Expeditionary Forces.

The sojourn in Luxemburg was pleasant, everything considered. Entertainments were provided by brigade and imported talent. There were horse shows and sports of all kinds, and drill enough to keep the personnel in good condition.

Finally, about April 20, orders sending the brigade to Brest for embarkation were received. The brigade left Brest between the 11th and 15th of May. After a short stay near New York it went west to participate in the wonderful homecoming reception in Chicago. Then it was demobilized at Camp Grant, and passed into history.

I cannot close this brief summary of the work of the brigade without expressing my heartfelt appreciation of the wonderful loyalty and devotion to duty of both officers and men during the time that it was my great pleasure and honor to command the brigade. No cleaner or finer body of men, mentally, morally and physically, ever served their country. The men of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade indeed deserve well of their fellow-countrymen.



THE FOUR ELEVENS

Photograph taken at P. C. Plattsburg at 11 a. m., 11-11-18. The eleven officers, left to right, are Lieutenant Prosser, Lieutenant St. Poillu, Major Waring, Major Bittel, Captain Black, General King, Colonel Clinnin, Major Culbertson, Lieutenant Sadler, Colonel Luke Lee, Major Humphrey.

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS HEADQUARTERS, 65TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

*Brigadier General*

Edward L. King  
Commanding

Raymond Randall  
Veterinarian

Spencer McKeon

Acting Brigade Adjutant at various times

*Majors*

Louis Duvall

Brigade Adjutant from January to April, 1919

Diller S. Myers, Jr.

Brigade Adjutant from July 31, 1917, until promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September, 1918

Roane Waring

Brigade Adjutant from September to November, 1918

*Lieutenants*

H. W. Bullington

Brigade Supply Officer, October-November, 1918-1919

A. St. Poulof

French Army—attached as Liaison Officer

John A. Prosser

Aide-de-Camp

Oscar Strahan

Signal Officer

C. R. Van Voorhis

Brigade Medical Officer, November, 1918

*Captains*

Norman R. Hays

Intelligence Officer

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY BRIGADE WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

*Captains*

Norman R. Hays

Spencer McKeon

Raymond Randall

*Sergeant*

Chester H. Smith

*Wagoners*

Paul B. Brunsmann

*First Lieutenants*

John A. Prosser

Oscar W. Strahan

*Corporal*

John W. Adams

*Battalion Sergeant Major*

Ralph L. Bee

*Cooks*

Charles T. Connett

Frederick J. Schwab

## DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY HEADQUARTERS 65TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

*Brigadier General*

Edward L. King

Distinguished Service Medal

Officer Legion of Honor

Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf



AN OFFICERS' MESS AT CAMP LOGAN



READY TO ADVANCE DURING MANEUVERS AT WILLERONCOURT

## The 129th Infantry

BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL DILLER S. MYERS, JR.

As it will appear from a perusal of the history of the 129th Infantry herein offered, that it differs in several essentials from the style of current histories of similar organizations, some explanation of this fact is due to the reading public, particularly that portion of it which served with the regiment.

We are taught by historians that a history of a nation or of any of the instrumentalities of a nation should serve first to delineate facts and circumstances so they may be preserved to posterity, and should aspire secondly to kindle patriotism and keep the fires of love for one's country burning brightly. Obviously, if these be the purposes of a history, it is improper to detail facts which would reflect discredit upon the service, even though they would reflect upon organizations other than the 129th Infantry.

The writer is indebted to Lieutenant Cyril A. Burns, regimental intelligence officer, for his able assistance in preparing this history.



THE 129th United States Infantry was organized originally on October 25, 1811. Through a multitude of changes in name, personnel and organization, it has clung to its traditions and entity during the one hundred and eight years of its existence and the vicissitudes of six wars. Through all it has been strictly a combat unit, doing yeoman duty during periods of hostilities and returning to the functions of peace at the close of each campaign. It was organized as an independent battalion for active participation in our second struggle with England, and justified its organization. Under the command of Major William Simpson, it ren-



REGIMENTAL EXCHANGE AT CAMP LOGAN

tain James Hall, Captain James N. Clark and Captain Berryman G. Wells.

In 1846 the regiment was reorganized as the Third Infantry, and its ten companies were placed under the command of Colonel Ferris Foreman. Under this leadership the organization made a glorious record in the Mexican War. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the old Third was merged with a new regiment, given a new name—the Seventh Infantry—and was the first unit to be called into service from the state of Illinois. Through the four long years of that struggle it justified its old reputation, and added new glories to its already illustrious name.

In 1875 it was reorganized again by the addition of the Sterling City Guards, the Rockford Guards, the Sycamore Union Guards, the LaSalle Light Guards, the Morris Guards, the Dwight Guards, the Streator Veteran Guards, the Boone County Guards, the Bohemian Rifles, the Naperville Guards, the Elgin Guards, the Lena Guards, and the Genoa Company. Colonel

dered valiant service during that war, then returned to the pursuits of peace for two decades. In 1832 it was called again for active service, and went through the Black Hawk campaign under the able leadership of such men as Captain Arden Biggerstaff, Captain John Onslott, Cap-



GENERAL VIEW OF THE 129TH'S CAMP AT LOGAN

As it looked on a peaceful summer morning.

Joseph W. R. Stambaugh assumed command of the regiment in January, 1876, immediately after this new reorganization.

A long period of peace intervened between the campaigns of the Civil War and the Spanish American War, a period during which the regiment was called several times to assist civil officials in maintaining order during times of stress—notably during the Haymarket trouble in 1886—and always acquitted itself with credit. In 1898, under the command of Colonel Fred Bennitt, the regiment again was called into active service, and was with the American forces during the whole of the Porto Rican campaign.

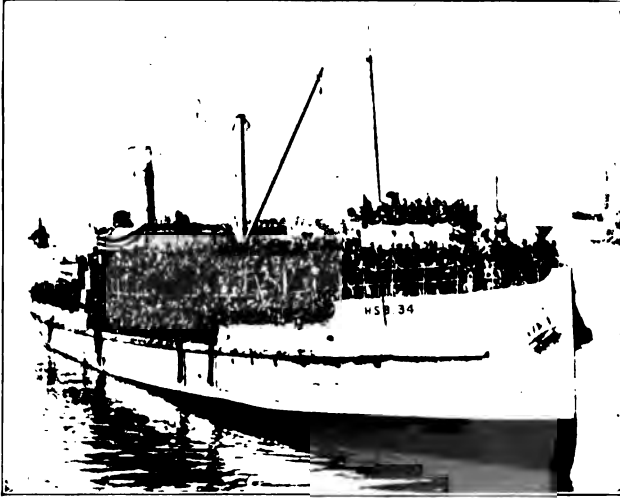
With the concentration of American troops along the Mexican border in 1916, the Third Infantry, under the command of Colonel Charles H. Greene, was assigned to the Twelfth Provisional Division and sent to Camp Wilson, near San Antonio. In the fall of that year, with the Twelfth Provisional Division, it formed a part of the largest overland troop movement that the United States ever had undertaken—the march of a war-strength division 206 miles. Again in July, 1917, it was called into active service, and sent to Camp Logan, Texas, for training and equipment. At this time the home stations of the various units were: Company A, DeKalb; Company B, Hoopeston; Company C, Ottawa; Company D, Aurora; Company E, Elgin; Company F, Pontiac; Company G, Woodstock; Company H, Rockford; Company I, Aurora; Company K, Rockford; Company L, Kankakee; Company M, Belvidere; Machine Gun Company, Aurora; Headquarters Company, Pontiac; Supply Company, Aurora; Medical Detachment, Rockford. Renamed the 129th United States Infantry, it was made a part of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade, Thirty-third Division.

On May 2, 1918, still under the command of Colonel Charles H. Greene, after a strenuous period of training under the command of Colonel Mathew C. Smith and later Colonel Charles H. Payne, both of the regular



COLONEL CHARLES H. GREENE

Commander of the old Third Infantry, I. N. G., and first commander of the 129th Infantry, U. S. A.



#### COMING ASHORE AT BREST

This lighter, H. S. B. 34, was carrying men of the 129th Infantry.

army, it started to en-train for oversea service, arriving at Hoboken in time to go aboard the United States transports Covington, Agamemnon, La Lorraine and President Lincoln, which sailed as a convoy on May 10, 1918. After an uneventful voyage, broken only by the usual routine of safety drills, all the transports, except La Lorraine, went into port at Brest, France, on May 23, 1918, and disembarked the next day (Companies L and M on

board La Lorraine disembarked at Bordeaux the same day). Through a driving rain the regiment marched to a point about three miles north of Brest where camp was made in the fields. There the regiment was quarantined for scarlet fever, from which some companies were not released until June 28. During the stay of the regiment in the quarantine camp the officers and men were occupied in part with fatigue duty connected with the routine work at Brest and in certain construction which was being carried on there.



A WATERWAY IN AMIENS

The movement of the regiment to a British training area was commenced with the entraining from Brest for Oisemont of Companies H, I and K on May 29. After a short stay at Oisemont, the regiment marched to Zalliau, a village about five kilometers south of Abbéville. Here the regiment received its baptism of fire during a night raid by several German planes. On June 2 Companies L and M arrived from Bordeaux, and the third battalion was now assembled in its entirety under Major William F. Hemenway. By June 22 the regiment, with the exception of Company F, had been concentrated in the British area near Bethincourt-sur-Mer, and on the 28th it was moved to the neighborhood of Gorenflos, where Company F rejoined the regiment.

The next three weeks were occupied with training under British instructors, school details, range practice and front line training for selected details



ON THE ALBERT-AMIENS ROAD

In the woods at the left several British tanks were wrecked.

from each company. This period of instruction was broken by a holiday on the Fourth of July, with a review by Prime Minister Lloyd George and Major General Sir Henry Rawlinson, commanding the British Fourth Army, to which the Thirty-third Division was then attached.

On July 17 the regiment marched out of Gorenflos, and proceeded via Vignacourt Forest and Bois de Mai to support positions in the Villers-Bretonneux sector of the Amiens defenses. This was one of the hottest spots on the western front, for the capture of Villers-Bretonneux would have opened the way to Amiens. The platoons of the 129th Infantry were joined to selected platoons from the Australian corps, and were sent to garrison front line positions in this sector. Here the regiment suffered its first casualties, one man of Company I being killed and several wounded by artillery fire. Regimental headquarters, the headquarters company and the nucleus camp



were located at Camon. The machine gun company laid its guns for defensive work and for harassing fire on the roads and areas near Villers-Bretonneux. The trench mortar and one-pounder sections were given special work in target practice and in methods to be employed in the destruction of hostile machine gun positions.

The rest of the regiment was occupied with a regular course of training and instruction. Various details were used in the construction and repair of the defense system and in burying cable for the lines of communication. The pioneer platoon was especially active, being employed throughout this period in the organization of front line positions and the construction of defensive works under fire. Beginning July 27 whole companies from the regiment were attached to Australian battalions and sent to garrison front



AMIDST THE WRECKAGE OF ALBERT

Through sections like this, the patrols of the 129th Infantry made their examinations.

line positions. The whole sector, from front line to rear echelon, was so frequently subjected to aerial bombardments that they ceased even to be interesting, much less to be annoying.

On August 5 the regiment was detached from the Australian command, and was ordered to rejoin the Sixty-fifth Brigade at Allonville. From Allonville it marched to Daily Mail Woods and Contay, reaching these places on August 6. Two days were spent in resting and in cleaning and repairing equipment.

On the night of August 9-10, 1918, the regiment marched to Round Woods, from which place relief of the 132nd Infantry and part of the Thirteenth Londoners in the Albert sector was completed on the morning of August 12. This was the first sector held by the regiment as a unit; from the 12th to the 20th of August, when it was relieved by the Fifty-fourth



COLONEL EDGAR A. MYER  
Commander of the 129th Infantry during active operations.



ON THE WAY TO MORNING DRILL AT  
WILLERONCOURT

British Brigade, it held the sector. During this time it was occupied with routine duties of trench warfare and preparation for the continuation of the British Somme offensive. This work of preparation was nearly, if not quite, as arduous as an attack. It involved continuous and strenuous patrolling over an unusually difficult area. From Albert, just outside our lines on the left, our front extended along a railroad embankment which masked our lines, but left No Man's Land entirely open to the view of the enemy. Our patrols, however, successfully penetrated the German lines on our right, and explored the country for

three-quarters of a mile inside of their outposts. While Albert was in the possession of the enemy, small patrols from the regiment made a thorough examination of the interior of the city and even of the country back of the city. Most of the patrols, because of the exposed position of the Americans, were made at night, but even at night met sharp opposition from enemy combat patrols and from machine gun and artillery fire. Colonel Edgar A. Myer, U. S. A., assumed command of the regiment on August 18.

After being relieved the regiment was concentrated at Molliens-au-Bois, whence it marched to Amiens and entrained for Ligny. It was detrained at Ligny and marched to Nançois-le-Petit and Willeroncourt. About two weeks were spent in this area in drill and maneuvers. Then the regiment was moved by trucks to a bivouac in woods near Blercourt. Here an officer and a non-commissioned officer were detailed from each company to reconnoiter the Dead Man's Hill sector.

On September 8 the 129th Infantry commenced the relief of the 372nd Infantry (colored) in the sector lying between Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304. Until the commencement of the Meuse-Argonne offensive the regular routine of trench warfare duties—patrols and the improvement of battered

positions—was carried out. Until the impending attack necessitated an order stopping all patrols, our scouts took possession of No Man's Land and the whole country between our lines and Forges Creek. One small patrol, led by Lieutenant Truman Arvig, drove off a German patrol with the aid of O. F. grenades that would not explode and were useful as weapons only in the same way that a round stone might be useful. Gradually the regimental front was extended until the 129th Infantry held the front line in the whole corps sector which extended from Forges to Malancourt, a distance, as the line ran at that time, of about ten miles. The sector became increasingly active as preparations for the great attack of September 26 were made. The hostile artillery was much more active than the ordinary harassing fire of position warfare would warrant



A CLASS IN HANDICRAFT AT NANCOIS LE PETIT

The hostile artillery was much more active than the ordinary harassing fire of position warfare would warrant



DUGOUTS IN MONTZEVILLE

The semi-circular iron covers mark the entrances to dugouts. At the end of the road is an ambulance of the 108th Sanitary Train in front of a dressing station.



THE CREST OF DEAD MAN'S HILL

until the day of the American attack. During the night of September 25-26, the Fourth, Seventy-ninth and Eightieth Divisions went through the lines of the 129th Infantry, and attacked in the morning, leaving the regiment as division reserve concentrated between Hills 304 and 310, where it remained all day.

The next day the regiment advanced via the Esnes-Bethincourt-Gercourt road—called a road because of what it had been rather than because of what it was at that time, for it was so congested with traffic and so torn by bombardments as to require a considerable stretch of imagination to picture it as a road



ESNES, REGIMENTAL P. C. AT THE OPENING OF THE MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

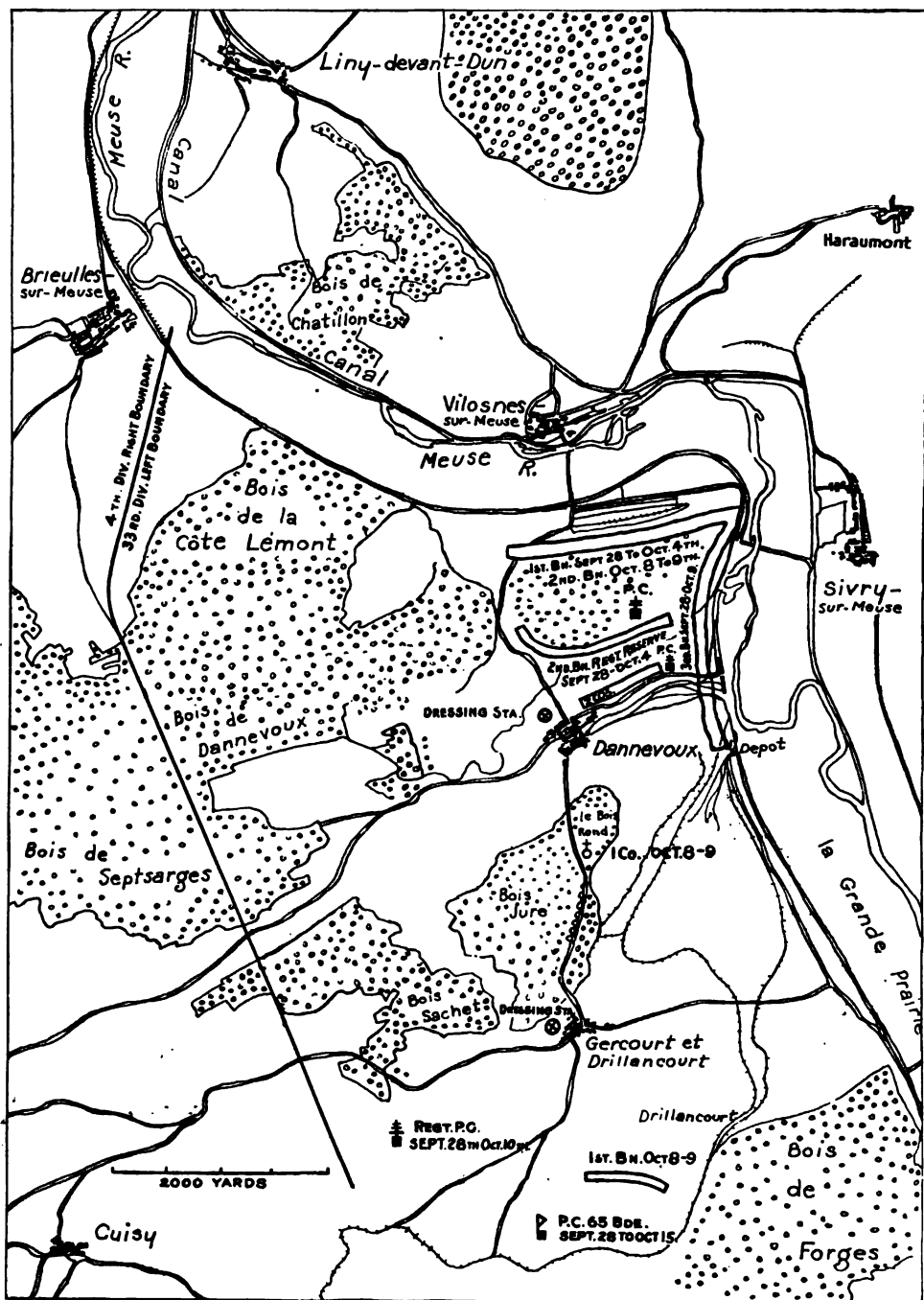
—to Hill 281, where a defensive position was taken up in the rear of the hill. One night was spent there, and the next night the 129th marched by way of Bois Sachet to the relief of the 319th Infantry, north and east of Dannevoux. From September 29 to October 10 the 129th Infantry held this position along the Meuse River, in the face of murderous artillery fire from the front, right flank and rear. It is hard, from a military standpoint, to imagine a worse position in which to place a regiment, but, until the advance on the east side of the Meuse could be completed, the position of the 129th on the west bank was the pivot on which the whole Meuse-Argonne action was turning.



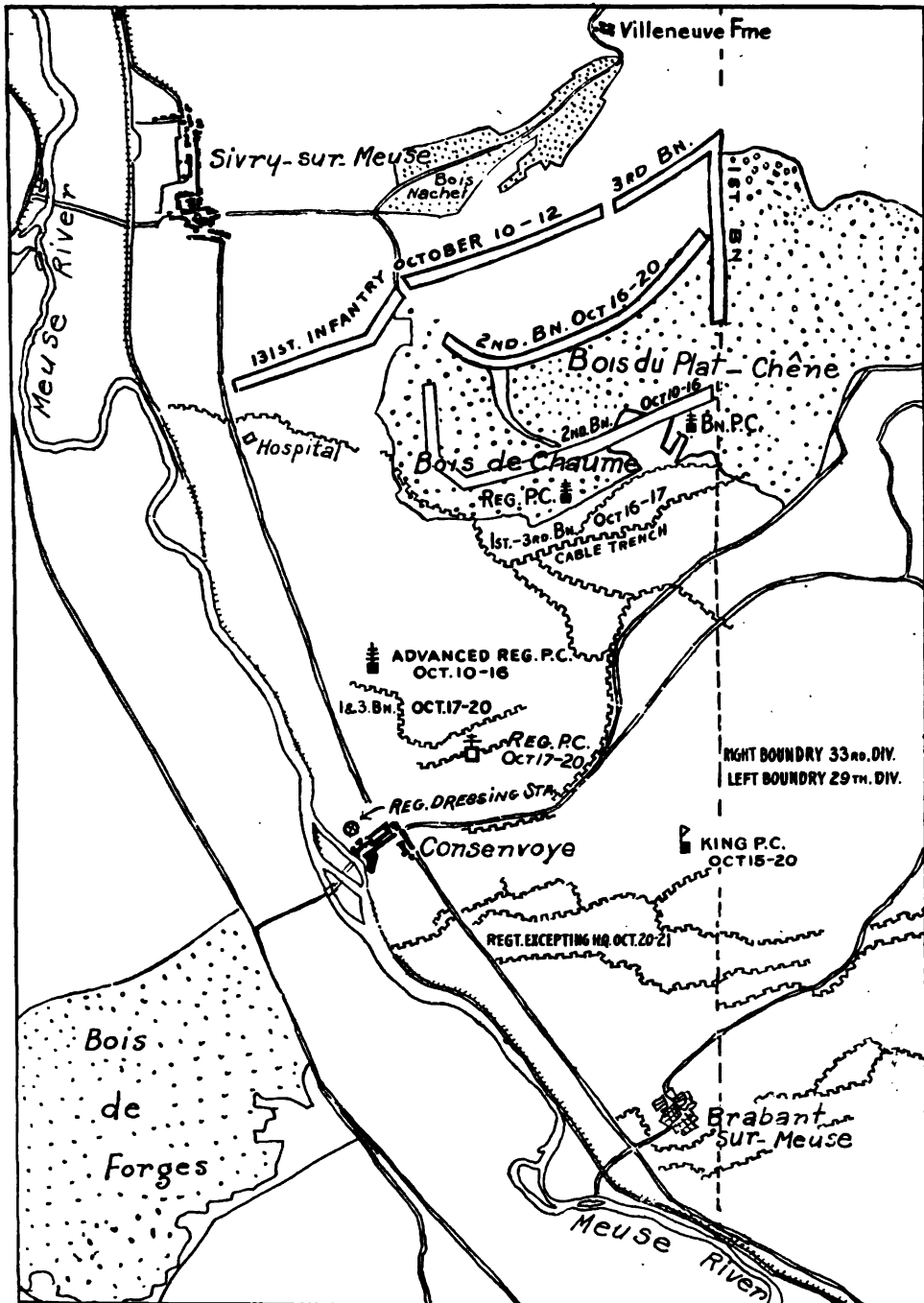
TRUCKS OF THE 120TH ON THE CONGESTED ROAD THROUGH BETHINCOURT

Starting on October 8 the third battalion of the 129th in conjunction with the first and second battalions of the 132nd Infantry crossed the Meuse River. The crossing of the river was completed in the night of October 9-10, and at six o'clock on the morning of the 10th the regiment took up the advance, gaining all objectives on schedule time. The first and second battalions had already crossed the Meuse and the third battalion was now again operating with its own regiment.

At the commencement of this attack the first battalion, with only 211 effective men, was under the command of Captain Owen H. Corr, who had



## THE OPERATIONS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY WEST OF THE MEUSE



THE OPERATIONS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY EAST OF THE MEUSE





MAJOR LORD AND STAFF

At the regimental aid station in Consenvoye.

assumed command on September 29, when Major Earle C. Thornton left the battalion for the Army School of the Line at Langres. The second battalion, under Major Harry B. Goodison, had a strength of 411 rifles, and the third battalion, Major William F. Hemenway commanding, had 325 rifles. Companies I, K and M, forming the first wave of the attack, with Company L in support, drove on to their

objectives in spite of repeated efforts of the best German shock troops to stop them. During this attack Captain Harold W. Davis was killed.

The second exploitation objective of this attack was the road running from Sivry-sur-Meuse to Villeneuve Farm. It was taken only after the most severe fighting. Owing to the inability of the Twenty-ninth American Division to advance, the right flank of the Thirty-third Division was left exposed for a distance of more than a mile, allowing infiltration of German infantry



THE 129TH IN THE BOIS DE CHAUME

The regimental post of command was on the north slope of this valley, among the dugouts and shelters which are visible.

and machine gun units. The situation was made somewhat easier by the action of the first battalion, Captain Joseph H. Burgheim commanding, aided by Company A of the 122nd Machine Gun Battalion, in driving out the troops that had filtered in and establishing and maintaining connection until such time as the Twenty-ninth Division was able to advance. Captain Burgheim, who had succeeded to command of the battalion after the gassing of Captain Corr on October 5, was in turn badly gassed, but for several days refused to be evacuated. He was succeeded in command of the battalion



THE GREAT GUN AT DANNEVOUX

This was said to be the second largest gun captured by the Americans during the war. It was of the howitzer type, and had a chain hoist for shells. Each shell was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high and weighed 1,400 pounds.

by Captain Joseph R. Eardley, who also succumbed to gassing, and was followed in the command by Captain Felix R. Holmes.

With orders to hold at all cost, the regiment maintained its positions against repeated German efforts; the third and first battalions were in line, with the second battalion in support. On the morning of October 16 the second battalion relieved the third and first battalions in the forward positions. Upon completion of the relief, the second battalion, with Company E on the left flank and Company H on the right, attacked northward; the left flank advanced 200 meters and the right flank a little more than 1,000 meters, the general line of advance conforming to the contour of the terrain. Company L of the third battalion acted as liaison detachment on the right,

and assisted in the attack made by the 115th Infantry of the Twenty-ninth Division. The first and third battalions, less Company L, were merged, and were the sole support and reserve of the advance. Upon reaching the objective, the second battalion dug in, and the line was organized to resist counterattack. The regiment held its new position until it was relieved on October 20 by the Sixth French Colonial Regiment.

During this offensive the regiment was engaged in front-line duty, in actual contact with the enemy, virtually continuously from September 8 to October 20, a period of forty-two days. The only break in this tour of duty



LOOKING TOWARD VILOSNES

In the foreground can be seen the rims of shell holes reappearing as the waters of the Meuse River recede.

was on September 26 and 27, when the regiment was held as divisional reserve. Even on these days the position was so close up and the work of such a character that it differed but lightly from front-line duty. With only fair artillery support, due to lack of artillery observation, the regiment took all objectives assigned on schedule time and held all ground taken. Every advance was contested hotly by the best troops Germany had to put in the field, and every objective taken was held against persistent and desperate efforts on the part of the enemy to retake it. With the exception of the time spent in Sector 304, prior to the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, every minute was a desperate struggle against highly-trained troops who held their ground until actually forced out, and once forced out made every

effort to come back. In view of this resistance the regiment is justly proud of having been able to spend forty-two days in such duty, of having been able to take all objectives, of having never withdrawn, and of coming out at the close of the period as a military unit. Of the 3,100 men of all ranks and all duties who went into Sector 304 with the regiment, only 1,200 remained to come out with it on October 20. The first battalion had only 126 rifles, commanded by a first lieutenant, at the close of the period, and Company K had only nineteen men and no officers. Captain Corr, who rejoined the regiment on his return from hospital, remained a battalion commander until the return to the United States.

After being relieved in the Consenvoye sector on October 20, the regiment marched via Delolime and Sommedieu to the rest area in the Troyon sector, arriving there on October 24. The regiment was billeted in Ambly, Ranziers, Tilly and Recourt, with



LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. S. MYERS, JR.

Adjutant of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade prior to his promotion to the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 129th Infantry.



CONCRETE DUGOUTS IN MARCHEVILLE

Because of the marshy ground, these were not really dug out, but were built up on the surface.



HEADED BY THE BAND, THE REGIMENT MARCHES THROUGH CONFLANS

a section of machine gunners and two platoons of infantry at Fort Troyon. The ensuing two weeks were spent in training replacements and in cleaning equipment and resting, broken only by an "alert general" on October 31.

Warning orders were received on November 8 to the effect that the regiment would again go into the lines at an early date, and the necessary reconnaissance was made on that date. On the next day the regiment was concentrated at Ranziers, and on the 10th marched to the relief of the 130th Infan-



ON THE WAY TO ETTELBRUCK

The 129th on the march, near Roodt, Luxemburg, on December 14, 1918.



## MAJORS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Upper row: Harry B. Goodison, William F. Hemenway, Felix R. Holmes.

Lower row: Arthur E. Lord, Earle C. Thornton.

try in the line from Herbeuville to Fresnes, completing the relief at 4:30 a. m., November 11, 1918.

In spite of all rumors and the virtually certain knowledge that the armistice had been signed, the regiment attacked at seven o'clock in the morning. A stubborn resistance from well-organized positions was met at the very outset. The terrain had been inundated by the enemy, and was covered with a multitude of barbed wire entanglements. Men held up by the wire and unable to escape were shot down. Men only slightly wounded were drowned before the eyes of their comrades. A sticky, nasty fog partially masked the fire of the enemy during the early part of the engagement, and made it impossible to maintain the direction of advance. A large part of the supporting artillery was stuck hopelessly in the mud and could render no assistance. But

in spite of these conditions the advance was made, and the Chateau d'Aulnois, Riaville and Marchéville had been captured and occupied when orders were received announcing the armistice had been signed. All units were notified. From the front line an unidentified musician climbed upon a pile of dirt thrown up by an exploding shell and sounded "recall." The war was over and won as far as the 129th Infantry was concerned, but enemy artillery continued active until 11:00 a. m. The sector was organized immediately for defense, and later all troops not needed for outposts or patrols were withdrawn to the vicinity of Rupt. The following three weeks were occupied in training schedules and policing the area.

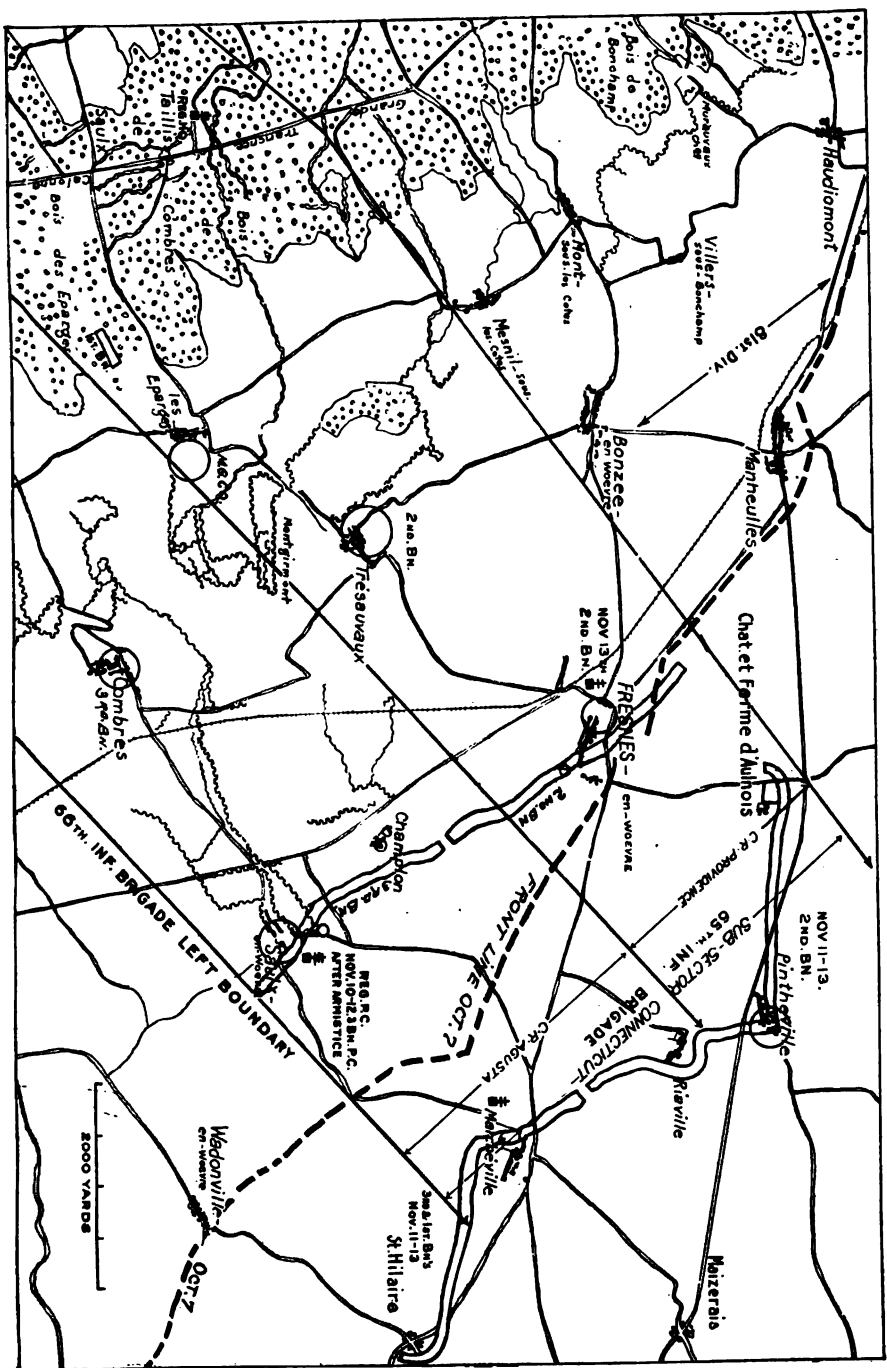


THE REGIMENTAL BAND ON ITS RETURN FROM OVERSEAS

On December 7 the regiment started its march across Lorraine and into Luxemburg, arriving at Ettelbrück on the 20th. From that time until the latter part of April, 1919, it was engaged in an intensive period of drill and training, with such amusements, athletics and theatricals as the welfare organizations could devise and circumstances would permit. In the month of April, the division was reviewed by Secretary of War Baker and by General Pershing.

On April 26 the regiment started to entrain for its long journey from Luxemburg to Illinois, arriving at Camp Grant for discharge on June 6, 1919.

With the discharge of the personnel from the service, the regiment officially went out of existence, but it still lives in the hearts of the men who have served with it. The Tenth Battalion, the Third Illinois Infantry, the 129th United States Infantry—call it what you will, it is all the same—still lives in and for Illinois.



# THE LAST DAY

The operations of the 120th Infantry on the morning of November 11, 1918.



OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 129TH INFANTRY WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED  
OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Captain*

Harold W. Davis

*First Lieutenants*

Truman Aarvig  
Herbert W. Howard  
Samuel W. Raymond

*Sergeants*

Leo Anderson  
Gordon Bentley  
John Bradshaw  
Fred A. Kennedy  
Percy King  
Charles Umathum  
Wm. D. Wood  
Ernest Hart

*Corporals*

Harry W. Barkley  
Walter R. Craig  
Grant O. Dawson  
James T. Duffy  
Lawrence Fulton  
Iythel T. Jones  
Edward A. Kniery  
Edw. S. Lake  
Peter T. Maurer  
Bernard A. Myers  
Emmet J. Moran  
Charles W. Paul  
Marshall W. Purrucker  
Jacob Swanson  
Charles Varisco  
Ettore Vignochi  
Earl C. Violet  
Fred W. Zeller

*Cooks*

Archie Bird  
Harry McDonald

*Privates, First Class*

Rada Besonvich  
Merril Gutshall  
Sam Koorstra  
Harold L. Parker  
Wm. B. Patton  
Leon Purkey  
Daleso Lancione  
Lindsey Lanning  
Leo A. Schwind  
Henry G. Shaw  
Day W. Skinner

*Privates*

Arthur D. Aussew  
Hyman Aronoff  
Eric H. Arndt

John A. Alward  
George C. Adler  
Edmund Baggs  
Michael Baguowski  
Ralph Barker  
David Beutkowski  
Earl Blake  
George Blank  
Harry S. Bochman  
Joseph Bowen  
Leslie Boyle  
Oscar C. Brem  
Isador Brenner  
Wm. F. Brockmeyer  
Edward Brown  
Fay Brunner  
Vincent Carney  
Harry Campbell  
Wm. H. Campbell  
Alphonse Chamberlain  
Miles W. Chance  
Merle R. Clark  
Walter Clemons  
Hugh C. Collins  
Jas. A. Dachenbach  
John F. Dahlgren  
Emil G. Dahm  
William Davis  
Lawrence Devereux  
John De Wilde  
Harry L. Doty  
Eskel Eabourg  
Matto Eisel  
Alfred English  
Walter Francis  
Peter Gallas  
Delbert L. Garner  
Paul Gehrke  
Michael Gierat  
Ralph E. Gray  
Earl Gragg  
Benj. F. Green  
Gilbert D. Gridley  
Umberta Guiducci  
Raymond Hagaman  
Clark Hall  
Lawrence Hettrick  
Edward Hirschert  
Fred E. Hoff  
George Jankee  
Harry W. Jenson  
Albert Kalinski  
Frank Kasal  
Thomas Kearns  
Emil Kummer  
Frederick C. Ladenorf  
Guy J. W. Lawson

Henry V. Lee  
 Clarence Lindblade  
 Sam Lipschitz  
 Leon R. Listy  
 Benjamin A. Luckett  
 Alexander Lulewicz  
 James E. Lynch  
 James W. Lynch  
 Charlie McGuire  
 Leon McNish  
 Joseph W. Marx  
 Albert Mielke  
 Ignacy Milewski  
 Thomas Mitchell  
 Alfred Moen  
 Lawrence Morris  
 Frank Mundekis  
 Joseph Lusselewicz  
 Alva Neely  
 George J. Nelson  
 Adolph A. F. Nelson  
 Steve Oles  
 Merle Olson  
 Henry M. Ostendorf  
 Edwin Palmgren  
 Wm. C. Panis

Kieth F. Pierce  
 Felix Puðellko  
 Joseph P. Queenan  
 James L. Rickey  
 Samuel Rikhus  
 Jacob Ruff  
 Fred Schmack  
 Daniel Simpson  
 Ralph C. Sellick  
 Adolph Spolek  
 Joseph B. Speeter  
 Konstan Staikunas  
 Herman Stauke  
 Alexander Sulerwicz  
 Jacob Swanson  
 John C. Tarnowski  
 Orphene Torgensen  
 Alex Urvakis  
 Garrit Van Puersens  
 George Waidley  
 Robert Warren  
 William Wells  
 Robert Woods  
 Nick Zuchero  
 Andreas Zink

DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

*Major*

Felix R. Holmes  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf  
 Italian Croix de Guerre

*Sergeant*

Ralyn Hill  
 Medal of Honor  
 Medaille Militaire  
 Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf

*Privates*

Charles G. Carlson  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre with Silver Star  
 Joseph Osol  
 Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star

CITATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL  
 MEDAL OF HONOR

*Corporal Ralyn Hill, Company H:*

At Dannevoix, France, October 7, 1918, seeing a French airplane fall out of control on the enemy side of the Meuse River with its pilot injured, Corporal Hill voluntarily dashed across the footbridge to the side of the wounded man, and, taking him on his back, started back to his lines. During the



CORPORAL RALYN HILL

Who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for one of the most daring acts of the war.



PRIVATE CHARLES G. CARLSON

being under heavy shell fire and through ravines filled with gas.

entire exploit he was subjected to murderous fire of enemy machine guns and artillery, but he successfully accomplished his mission and brought his man to a place of safety, a distance of several hundred yards.

#### CITATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

##### *Major Felix R. Holmes:*

Near Consenvoye, October 11, 1918, after being wounded and ordered to the aid station, Major Holmes, then a captain, reported to his regimental headquarters, giving a detailed report of the forward positions. His strength failing, while he was attempting to reach the aid station alone, he was assisted to the place, had his wounds dressed, and was tagged for evacuation, but instead he returned to the front line, through intense shell, machine-gun and sniper fire, and took command of his company.

##### *Private Charles G. Carlson, Headquarters Company:*

Near Consenvoye, October 17, 1918, Private Carlson, though seriously wounded, succeeded in reaching his destination with an important message, his route

#### OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 120TH INFANTRY WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Pershing and General Bell.

##### *Colonel*

Edgar A. Myer

##### *Lieutenant Colonel*

Diller S. Myers, Jr.

##### *Majors*

W. F. Hemenway  
Elmer G. Lindroth  
Arthur E. Lord

##### *Captains*

Paul E. Anderson  
Joseph T. Brennan  
George W. Burton  
Hal L. Carr  
N. B. Clinch  
Owen H. Corr  
Harry H. Davis  
Guy A. Karr  
Neil Kerr  
William H. McMullen, Jr.  
Cassius Poust  
Fred E. Scheppler  
Clyde R. Van Voorhis

##### *First Lieutenants*

James L. Boucher  
Frederick S. Burgess

Cyril A. Burns

Ralph V. Conard

Lester Edinger

Richard S. Edwards

William Gustason

Richard E. Iverson

Burlin E. Keen

Leslie F. Kimmell

George A. Milby

James Milligan, Jr.

Edward D. Rosengren

Emil Rossberg

Robert S. Taylor, Jr.

William G. Wiseman

##### *Second Lieutenants*

Frank Balzer

Ellis M. Boddy

Charles Bressler

Paul Huenkemier

Glenn Weese

Walter H. Wulk

##### *Regimental Sergeants*

Major Guy J. Helfrich

##### *Battalion Sergeant Majors*

Donald J. Bear

Aaron K. Hirstein

Robert A. Murrin

*First Sergeants*

Robert J. Beck  
James Lewis  
Raymond McGee

*Sergeant, First Class*

Alfred W. Burr

*Sergeants*

Webster W. Balzier  
Levi Baxley  
Samuel Borras  
John T. Bradshaw  
Harry Bushaw  
Elmer Cannon  
Benjamin Chambers  
Edward W. Colwell  
Hugh D. Cronk  
Clyde J. Cusley  
Charles L. Danforth  
Taylor Davis  
Basil L. Deardurff  
Everett E. DeMoss  
Wilbur E. Dewitt  
August E. Ehlen  
John Elmer  
Julius Ertz  
Michael Fallen  
Eugene C. Fiesel  
Carl Ganter  
Elmer E. Haney  
Paul E. Harrison  
Earl M. Hickey  
Raphael P. Hines  
Ralph Hildebrandt  
Ogle K. Howell  
William Hutchinson  
Robert F. Johnson  
James A. Kearne  
Harold Kugler  
James B. Lambert  
Simon Locks  
John J. Long  
Henry Longfield  
Ralph Menard  
Henry L. Metzler  
Joseph M. Mulligan  
Don F. Murphy  
William Myers  
Herbert Neathery  
Howard M. Nicholson  
Dan Parker  
Edward Payne  
Harry Petschow  
Harold Pleimling  
Raymond C. Powell  
Lester E. Rapier  
William Robinson  
Thomas A. Ruddy  
Joseph Schmidt  
Fred C. Seipp

Alberteus Speirer  
Guy Stevens  
Carl E. Swanson  
Everett Terwilliger  
Herbert A. Thompson  
John P. Tomas  
Roy L. Trapp  
John C. Tuttle  
William Ward  
Harry Wascher  
Harry Washer  
Fred C. Wendt  
Lean White

*Corporals*

Walter Anderson  
Ray Blake  
John A. Brenneman  
Claude Brush  
Arthur J. Carpenter  
James J. Christle  
Peter Drommess  
Chester M. Edwards  
Grover Edwards  
John Elden  
Howard T. Endres  
George J. Farrell  
Isaac Fish  
Edward Fortna  
Julius Gerding, Jr.  
George F. Gray  
William Haase  
Herry Henise  
Lawrence Hilton  
Fred Honne  
Linton H. Hoover  
Max Husted  
Daniel J. P. Jones  
Leon Jordan  
Frank Juehenbecker  
Walter Kutzke  
Gerald G. Marks  
Charles Mason  
Carl Matz  
Joseph J. McCann  
Paul Meighn  
Royal M. Miller  
Richard Oswald Murphy  
Oscar Nelson  
Jacob E. Neukom  
Henry F. Overberg  
Harry J. Payan  
Alva G. Pomeroy  
Louis Purcells  
William Robeck  
Charles R. Robin  
Henry Salvesson  
William Salzman  
Percy Shinnbarger  
Joseph Smith



## CAPTAINS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Left to right, top row: Marks Alexander, John C. Baker, Frank H. Billig, Joseph T. Brennan.  
 Second row: George W. Burton, N. Bayard Clinch, Owen H. Corr, Harry H. Davis.  
 Third row: Fred E. Eardley, Ralph A. Fritz, A. W. Goodwin, G. A. Karr.  
 Fourth row: W. C. Groom, James E. Kelley, Neil Kerr, H. H. Miller.

William Suring  
Chesles E. Telton  
Arthur Ward  
Charles Zornow

*Wagoners*

Lee Cornwall  
John Kemmel  
Leo LeMoth  
Gustave Reppel  
Albert Schneider  
Ernest Wagner

*Mechanics*

William G. Anderson  
Theodore Anderson  
Christian Jessen  
Herman Timm

*Bugler*

Hamilton J. Clay

*Cooks*

Everett Clark  
Joseph Fitzek  
Arthur Hollarbush  
Joseph Wurtzinger

*Privates, First Class*

George H. Andretsopoulos  
Thomas L. McAndrews  
Harrison H. Baizier  
John E. Bentley  
Adolph Berg  
George Blank  
David S. Bond  
Harry Campbell  
Clarence E. Cannon  
Henning G. Carlsen  
Frank Cobotovitsch  
Charles Danloff  
Merrill S. Glover  
Joe Hodgetts  
Edward Holst  
Thristian Jacobsen  
Norman Johnson  
Edward Laux  
Charles T. McNash  
Aime J. McNeil  
Edward N. Meyerhoffar  
Edward Miller  
Edwin L. Moe  
Roy E. Mowery  
Ralph Murphy  
Oren Norman  
Carl Oleson  
Carmen Paulo  
John Adam Pelot  
Clarence H. Peterson  
Frank Plummer  
Alfred M. Price

Leon Purkey  
Dewey M. Purnell  
George E. Rawson  
Piatt Reeves  
Otto Schwartz  
Irba Searle  
William Sipes  
Arthur Starrett  
Bert Strong  
Erwin Verne  
James White  
Leslie C. White  
Carl B. Whitehead  
Edward Wilson  
Albin E. Zipfel

*Privates*

Amos Antonsen  
William Ames  
Charles Anderson  
Christ Anderson  
Jack N. Basseriari  
John J. Blesser  
Edward J. Brever  
Edward Brown  
Ben Bush  
Clifford Canfield  
O'e J. Carlson  
Fred W. Cleary  
William B. Clegg  
Ben Cobb  
Timothy Connelly  
Benjamin H. Copeland  
Joseph Count  
Charles Craigen  
Benjamin Cyr  
Frank C. Dadds  
Frank I. Davies  
Edward De Bruin  
Henry Dosion  
Ralph Dray  
Samuel Ellis  
Clement Felke  
Anton J. Felke  
Arthur G. Fieder  
Leo J. Filipski  
John P. F. Flynn  
Leo Fraim  
Roy E. Fowder  
Fred E. Fox  
Michael J. Fox  
William Garry  
William D. Gilmore  
Everett Grady  
Harry Grigsby  
Paul Gross  
John W. Hagenow  
Clarence Hansen  
Ross C. Hauser  
John E. Herbert



## CAPTAINS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Top row: James T. Burns, Hal L. Carr, Frederick Cartwright, Harold W. Davis.  
 Second row: Robert C. Ellis, Ivan K. Foster, William W. Joslyn, Elmer G. Lindroth.  
 Third row: W. H. McMullen, Jr., Fred L. Morrison, W. M. Nichols, William R. Peck.  
 Bottom row: Cassius R. Poust, Samuel M. Richie, Fred E. Scheppler, Walter A. Stetler.



## CAPTAINS AND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Top row: Captains John H. Steward, Paul W. Tibbetts, C. R. VanVoorhis, C. K. Welsh.  
 Second row: Captain Ernest White, Lieutenants Charles Bressler, C. W. Bowen, Lester Deck.  
 Third row: Lieutenants Burlin E. Keen, Walter McLaughlin, Karl B. Mory, Harry A. Olson.  
 Bottom row: Lieutenants Walter E. Osborn, N. P. Peterson, Lloyd P. Petry, S. C. Phillips.



Arthur C. Hermann  
John Herman  
Kenneth Hill  
George E. Hopper  
Arthur Hughes  
† Walter Huston  
James Jedlicka  
Gust Jeppson  
Guy Johnson  
Glenn Kendall  
Fred A. Korth  
Herman Kuhrt  
Phil Kummer  
Peter Lentz  
Ben Levitt  
John Lewandowski  
Benedict Lipinski  
Alfred M. Lokken  
James H. Marshall  
Joe Martin  
William J. Maston  
Walter McCollum  
Kenneth Mertney  
Leslie Miles  
Peter Miller  
Edward Nielson  
George A. Norak  
Herbert Norris  
Richard E. Onions

Joseph Osiol  
Anton Paprocky  
Stanislaus Paszok  
John P. Peterson  
Charles Peterson  
Boyd Stewart Philips  
Frank J. Pranschke  
Jerry Prasek  
† Alfred E. Price  
Andrew Rejos  
August Ross  
Homer Rudd  
Roy H. Rundle  
Frank Sahn  
Alfred Schmidt  
Edward I. Schramkowski  
Ingwald Score  
John Shatters  
Stewart J. Smiley  
Howard Sonners  
Thomas Sullivan  
Leon G. Tritle  
Walter W. Walker  
John Walsh  
Edwin Westhin  
Walter W. Wilcox  
Orlo Woods  
Samuel Yancivsky



AN UNDERGROUND CHAPEL AT SIVRY-SUR-MEUSE



## FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Left to right, top row: Truman Aarvig, Wilford M. Beatty, C. A. Bloomquist, James L. Boucher.

Second row: Charles F. Brown, Clarence E. Bucklin, Cyril A. Burns, John C. Burt.

Third row: Alban D. Callagee, Christian T. Christensen, Ralph V. Conard, Robert E. Day.

Fourth row: William H. DeGaris, Harry A. Drennon, Lester Edinger, Richard S. Edwards.

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS 129TH INFANTRY WHO SERVED OVERSEAS

*Colonels*

Charles H. Greene  
Edgar A. Myer

*Lieutenant Colonels*

Elijah P. Clayton  
Diller S. Myers, Jr.

*Majors*

Felix R. Holmes  
Harry B. Goodison  
William F. Hemenway  
Arthur E. Lord  
Earle C. Thornton

*Captains*

Marks Alexander  
Paul E. Anderson  
John C. Baker  
Frank H. Billig  
Joseph T. Brennan (later Major)  
Joseph H. Burgheim  
George W. Burton  
Hal L. Carr  
Frederick Cartwright  
Nicholas Bayard Clinch  
Owen H. Corr  
Harold W. Davis (deceased)  
Harry H. Davis  
Fred E. Eardley  
Robert C. Ellis  
Ivan K. Foster  
Ralph A. Fritz  
Magnus A. Gerde  
A. W. Goodwin  
William C. Groom  
William W. Joslyn  
Guy A. Karr  
William Kennedy  
Neil Kerr  
James E. Kelley  
Elmer G. Lindroth (later Major 130th In-  
fantry)  
William H. McMullen, Jr.  
Harold H. Miller  
Fred L. Morrison  
William M. Nichols  
Virgil C. Nickerson  
William R. Peck  
Cassius R. Poust  
Samuel M. Richie  
Fred E. Scheppler  
Walter A. Stetler  
John H. Steward  
Paul W. Tibbets  
Clyde R. Van Voorhis  
Carlton K. Welsh  
Ernest White  
Ralph C. Woodward

*First Lieutenants*

Truman A. Aarvig (deceased)  
Wilford M. Beatty  
Churley A. Bloomquist  
James L. Boucher  
Clarence W. Bowen  
Charles F. Brown  
Clarence E. Bucklin  
Frederick S. Burgess  
Cyril A. Burns  
John C. Burt  
Alban D. Callagee  
Mitchell S. Cash  
Christian T. Christensen  
Ralph V. Conard  
Robert B. Day  
Lester R. Deck  
William H. DeGaris  
Harry A. Drennan  
Roy F. Dusenbury  
Lester Edinger  
Richard S. Edwards  
Sydney D. Emerson  
Rex I. Gary  
William A. Gustason  
Franz Gorges  
Herbert W. Howard (deceased)  
Vernon F. Hedin  
Alexander E. Herrold  
John M. Hiland  
Ewart C. Howe  
Richard Iverson  
Frank Jaycox  
Gustave J. Kaune  
Burlin E. Keen  
Leslie F. Kimmell  
Hiram P. Lawrence  
William B. MacBride  
George J. MacGregor  
John R. McCann  
Walter McLaughlin  
E. Y. Mallory, Jr.  
Elmer J. Meinken  
John E. Mekota  
Cyril H. Mergens  
George A. Milby  
James Milligan, Jr.  
Redfield C. Mills  
Melville G. Montgomery  
William C. Moore  
Karl B. Mory  
Harry A. Olson  
Walter E. Osborn  
Reese Nelson  
Norman P. Peterson  
Lloyd P. Petry  
Samuel W. Raymond (deceased)  
Maurice Rose  
Edward D. Rosengren



## FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Left to right, top row: William A. Gustason, Franz Gorges, Ewart C. Howe, Richard Iverson.

Second row: Frank Jaycox, Gustave J. Kaune, Leslie F. Kimmell, John R. McCann.

Third row: E. Y. Mallory, Jr., Elmer J. Meinken, John E. Mekota, Cyril H. Mergens.

Fourth row: George A. Milby, James Milligan, Jr., Melville G. Montgomery, Wm. C. Moore.

Emil E. Rossberg  
 Audus W. Shipton  
 Robert S. Taylor, Jr.  
 William A. Thomson  
 Horace E. Thornton  
 Herbert J. Wilkins  
 George R. Whicher  
 William G. Wiseman  
 Norman Zolla

*Second Lieutenants*

Donald T. Ayres  
 Frank Balzer  
 Ellis M. Boddy

Robert D. Bradlee  
 John M. Brand  
 Charles Bressler  
 J. Wilmon Brewer  
 Bernard Cruse  
 Fred J. Collins  
 William P. Coleman  
 Otto G. Danewitt  
 Hal Davenport  
 James C. Dibelka  
 Floyd R. Drew  
 Timothy J. Fitzgerald  
 Merle M. Goodell



**SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY**

Top row: Hubert F. Powell, Robert E. Price, Andrew J. Roemmich, E. A. Rutishauser.  
 Second row: Jack D. Thompson, Robert S. Tolmie, Arthur R. Tritschler.  
 Third row: Harold F. Vaughan, Glenn Weese, James W. Wilson, Walter H. Wulk.

Arthur D. Goudreau  
 Charles G. Haight  
 Charles A. Haldeman  
 Victor H. Hamm  
 Roy R. Haney  
 Clifford Hodgkin  
 William Hoffman  
 Harding F. Horton (deceased)  
 Ogle K. Howell  
 Paul Huenkemier  
 Fred Johnson  
 Andrew J. Keho  
 Fred E. Kent  
 Harry Kivel  
 Aud E. Lusk  
 William E. Ludtke  
 E. D. O'Leary  
 Robert B. Marshall  
 Arthur H. Maynard  
 Clyde E. Miller  
 Ladimir F. Moudry  
 Earl T. Nichols  
 William Parker

Earl Phillips  
 Sidney C. Phillips  
 Hubert F. Powell  
 Edward A. Prettyman  
 Robert E. Price  
 Paul H. Pritchard  
 Arnold J. Roemmich  
 Daniel Robinson  
 Emil A. Rutishauser (later 1st Lieutenant)  
 Edward Sanderson  
 Lloyd M. Stone  
 Jack D. Thompson (later Captain)  
 Robert S. Tolmie  
 Charles C. Trawick  
 Arthur R. Tritschler  
 Archie M. Van Horn  
 Harold F. Vaughan  
 Glenn W. Weese  
 John M. White  
 Russel W. Williford  
 Guyon J. Wierman  
 James W. Wilson  
 Walter H. Wulk

## OFFICERS WHO WERE WITH REGIMENT BEFORE IT WENT OVERSEAS

*Colonels*

Matthew C. Smith  
 Charles H. Paine

*Lieutenant Colonel*

William H. Brogunier

*Major*

Clyde C. Miner

*Captains*

Roy Brown  
 James T. Burns  
 Fred Dewey  
 Charles L. Gape  
 Charles Harkison  
 John H. Newman  
 T. L. Quinlan  
 W. J. Thornton  
 Albert M. Witt



THE CEMETERY EAST OF SIVRY-SUR-MEUSE



#### LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Top row: First Lieutenants E. D. Rosengren, E. E. Rossberg, A. W. Shipton, R. S. Taylor, Jr.  
 Second row: First Lieutenants W. A. Thomson, H. E. Thornton, H. J. Wilkins, W. G. Wiseman.  
 Third row: First Lieutenant N. Zolla, Second Lieutenants J. C. Dibelka, V. H. Hamm, C. Hodgins.  
 Bottom row: Second Lieutenants Ogle K. Howell, Harry Kivel, Earl T. Nichols, William Parker.



SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 129TH INFANTRY

Top row: Donald T. Ayres, Robert D. Bradlee, John M. Brand, Hal Davenport.

Second row: Floyd R. Drew, Merle M. Goodell, Arthur D. Goudreau, Charles G. Haight.

Third row: Roy R. Haney, Andrew J. Keho, Fred E. Kent, A. E. Lusk.

Bottom row: Robert B. Marshall, Arthur H. Maynard, Clyde E. Miller, Ladimir F. Moudry.





COLONEL JOHN V. CLINNIN  
Commander of the 130th Infantry during active operations.



THE 130TH INFANTRY CROSSING THE ORNE RIVER AT CONFLANS

## The 130th Infantry

COLONEL JOHN V. CLINNIN, EDITOR

BY CAPTAIN HARMON L. RUFF, REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT



THE 130th Infantry began its service in the war with Germany as the Fourth Infantry, Illinois National Guard. It was made up of companies from southern and south central Illinois, all composed of trained men, made fit by service on the Mexican border but a short time before.

The regiment's history had been long and honorable, though broken by reorganizations. It can be traced back at least to 1882, when it was known as the Ninth Infantry, under command of Colonel Louis Krugoff of Nashville. On December 26, 1885, the field and staff officers of the Ninth were mustered out and the regiment was consolidated with the Eighth Infantry, under which name it was carried on the rolls of the adjutant general's

office until December 31, 1890, when it became the Fourth Infantry. It served under that designation until it became the 130th Infantry, twenty-seven years later.

The regiment was on active duty for a year in the war with Spain. It was mustered into the federal service May 20, 1898. Colonel Cassimer Andel

of Belleville, then in command, resigned and was succeeded by Colonel Eben Swift, an officer of the regular army. The regiment was assigned to the Seventh Army Corps, which was commanded by General Fitzhugh Lee and was a part of the army of occupation in Cuba during the early part of 1899. It was mustered out at Augusta, Georgia, May 2 of that year. The regiment was designated while in federal service as the Fourth Illinois U. S. Volunteer Infantry, and was composed of companies from the following cities: Arcola, Newton, Carbondale, Belleville, Mattoon, Mount Vernon, Effingham, Paris, Vandalia, Litchfield, Olney and Urbana.

Both before and after the Spanish-American war the Fourth Infantry saw more active service within the state than any other regiment of the Illinois National Guard. It was one of the first to be called out whenever disorders requiring the presence of troops arose. From 1886 to 1916, the regiment, or some part of it, was called into active service on thirty different occasions.

When trouble with Mexico was imminent in 1916, the Fourth Infantry was sent to the border with other units of the Illinois National Guard. With Colonel Edward J. Lang in command, it was mustered into the federal service at Springfield June 29, and was sent to Camp Wilson (later Camp Travis), at San Antonio, Texas. The regiment remained there undergoing intensive training for nine months. One of the never-to-be-forgotten incidents of this service was the so-called "Austin hike." As a part of its training the regiment, carrying sixty-pound "horseshoe" packs, marched from San Antonio to Austin, a distance of more than 200 miles, over rock roads that were none too smooth and under a blistering Texas sun.

The Fourth was the last Illinois regiment to leave Camp Wilson, being mustered out at Fort Sheridan March 15, 1917, just twenty-two days before Congress declared the United States to be in a state of war with Germany. So the regiment had only a brief period of rest before it was summoned to further active service.

During the latter part of May several companies of the regiment were sent to Mattoon to preserve order following the partial destruction of that city by a cyclone. A little later the entire regiment was despatched to East St. Louis for riot duty. Such service occupied the organization's time until July 25, when, in response to the President's call, the companies of the regiment were mobilized at their home stations and began an intensive recruiting campaign. The home stations of the various companies at that time were as follows: Company A, Casey; Company B, Newton; Company C, Sullivan; Company D, Paris; Company E, Carbondale; Company F, Benton; Company G, Effingham; Company H, Shelbyville; Company I, Vandalia; Company K, Cairo; Company L, Olney; Company M, Champaign; headquarters company, Anna; machine gun company, Dieterich; supply company, Bellflower.

In the early part of October the regiment was ordered to Camp Logan, with the other Illinois National Guard units, from which the Thirty-third Division was organized. The Fourth Infantry became the 130th Infantry, a part of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade.

Lieutenant Colonel Elijah P. Clayton was in command of the Fourth Infantry when it reached Camp Logan. In the next few months, while it was in training, the regiment had several commanding officers. When the Fifth Infantry was split up and transformed into machine gun battalions, with the organization of the Thirty-third Division, Colonel Frank S. Wood, who had been in command of the Fifth, was placed at the head of the new 130th Infantry, later being succeeded by Colonel Fine W. Smith, a regular army officer. The latter was followed by Colonel John J. Garrity, who held the command for a short time.



COLONEL FRANK S. WOOD  
First commander of the 130th Infantry.

At Camp Logan specialists from the French and British armies gave the regiment, with other units of the division, intensive training, and by means of draft contingents sent forward from Camp Grant, the personnel was increased to the proportions prescribed in revised army regulations. Although the regiment's training was somewhat delayed by the work of eliminating the physically unfit and enemy aliens from the drafts, the 130th was a well-trained unit by May, 1918, when the division received orders to move.

On May 3, with Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Lang in command, the regiment left Camp Logan.



THE GOOD SHIP AGAMEMNON  
Which carried the 130th Infantry to France.

It was refitted at Camp Upton, N. Y., and then, on May 16, sailed on the transport Agamemnon, formerly the Kaiser Wilhelm II. Doubts entertained by any of the Illinois fighters as to the government's success in transporting troops vanished when, after an uneventful voyage, the Agamemnon steamed into the harbor of Brest. On all sides were great ships

swarming with men in khaki. Fifty thousand soldiers were waiting to land, and the 130th was held on board ship from the 24th to the 26th of May, before its turn came to disembark.

With other units of the division the 130th remained for a week at Pontanezen barracks near Brest. Then it entrained for the British front, arriving at Oisemont on June 1 and 2.

Regimental headquarters, with the supply and headquarters companies attached, were established at Maigneville. The first battalion was billeted at Vismes-au-Val, the second at Récourt, the third at Doudelainville, and the machine gun company at Sept Meules.

The British were genuinely glad to see the Americans. The British brigadier general in charge of the transportation of the troops to the war zone could scarcely believe the statement that 50,000 American soldiers were in Brest.

"My word!" he exclaimed. "That's jolly fine news, but did they get here soon enough?"

That question was to be answered presently in unmistakable terms. In the meantime the British did not attempt to disguise their delight in the fact that Americans were in their area. Their morale had been weakened by the March drive of the Germans, and they frequently reminded the newcomers that if the Germans should strike again it would be the Americans who would have to stop them. They felt, too, that unless the Americans could deliver the knockout blow the Germans would triumph.

Every possible assistance was given the 130th by the British. Skilled commissioned and noncommissioned officers were assigned to the regiment as instructors, and all the tricks which four years of trench fighting had developed were taught to the Illinois troops.

The stay at Maigneville was not long. The regiment was transferred early in June to the vicinity of Eu, another town on the British front. There the Springfield rifles were given up and British rifles were issued in their stead. The change was not an agreeable one. The men found it difficult to become proficient in the use of the new piece and did not have in it the same confidence they had in the Springfield. But they made the best of it and practiced steadily with rifles, grenades and bayonets. By June 21 they had reached such a degree of efficiency that the British considered them ready for actual service. The regiment was sent into the Long area to practice in attack formation with ball cartridges, live grenades and machine guns.

Officers and noncommissioned officers were sent to the front for tours of observation in the Australian trenches. Each of these tours covered four days, and the regiment soon learned that excitement was to be found wherever "Aussies" were engaged. All of the officers had hazardous and thrilling experiences. One tour resulted in the regiment's first casualty: Lieutenant Charles Twiss of Shelbyville was severely wounded by a German grenade while accompanying a patrol in No Man's Land.

During this training period the command of the regiment changed hands for the last time. From the time of its muster into the federal service the



LIEUTENANT COLONELS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Above: Edward J. Lang (left); John J. Bullington.

Below: Elijah P. Clayton, James Lindsay-Oliver.



A CAPTURED GERMAN TRAIN IN THE BRITISH SECTOR

130th had had no fewer than eight commanders, but in June the appointment of Colonel John V. Clinnin ended this uncertainty. Colonel Clinnin was to lead the regiment through the rest of its active service.

The battle practice in the Long area lasted until July 17, when the regiment was sent forward in the Australian Corps area to a station within reach of the German 150-millimeter shells. Headquarters were established at an old prison camp near Querrieu, and the second and third battalions were placed in the Card system of trenches, part of the Australian defenses. Some units were sent to the front line to fight beside the "Aussies," from whom they quickly learned what they did not know already of actual combat methods.

On August 5 the regiment was transferred to a British corps and stationed north of the Querrieu position in Molliens Wood. The third battalion went into trenches near Albert on August 7, while the rest of the regiment was sent forward to act as combat liaison between the British and Australian flanks in an attack delivered August 8. In this action they relieved part of the Eighteenth British Division in the line between the Ancre and Somme rivers at Morlancourt on the 10th.

The 142nd Infantry Brigade, British Expeditionary Forces, relieved the regiment on the night of August 11, and the next night the 130th was ordered back to its starting point. On the way it had its first experience with an actual battlefield. The route lay across the field of Morlancourt, so well known to the British and the Australians. The scene was beyond description; its horrors will never be forgotten by the men of the 130th.

Molliens Wood was reached again on the afternoon of August 12, and detachments from the first and second battalions were assigned immediately to the Eighteenth British Division, then in the line at Albert. The companies went forward in rotation, serving in the line beside British units in this way until August 20, when the division received the welcome news that it was to

entrain for transport to the American front.

The service with the British had cost the 130th six men killed and twenty-nine wounded, but that price had bought invaluable experience. Too much cannot be said for the training given the regiment by British and Australian veterans. The lessons learned from them were not appreciated fully until later, when the mistakes of less thoroughly schooled American units, costing heavy casualties



THE CHURCH AT BRAY-SUR-SOMME

The cross on the roof indicates its use by the Germans as a hospital.

and confusion, made the 130th realize its good fortune. In addition to lessons in actual combat the British taught their Illinois pupils how to develop and maintain an efficient transport and service of supply. And the men of the 130th always will remember the splendid artillery support given by the British and the magnificent behavior of the Royal Flying Corps. Memory of the latter is especially distinct because it is linked with recollections of the purr

of the giant German Gothas which rained missiles of death back of the lines whenever the British flyers could be evaded.

Nevertheless, the order to join the American army was joyfully received. The men were anxious to be with their own comrades and to regain the Springfield rifles they had exchanged for British pieces. To get back the Springfield was like finding a long-lost friend.

Eight days after the order to move was re-



A USELESS GIANT AT CAPPY-SUR-SOMME

This great gun, used in the bombardment of Amiens, was wrecked by the Germans.



ceived the regiment arrived in the rear of the American front, having made the journey by way of Paris and Chateau-Thierry. Eight more days were devoted to divisional maneuvers, in which the perfecting of liaison was the aim. Then, on the night of September 5-6, the regiment moved in auto trucks to the vicinity of Verdun. A few days later billets and dugouts in the Bois de Bethainville were occupied. They were held until the night of September 21-22, when the regiment marched to Moulin Brulé and the Bois de Ville, just outside Verdun, to await the launching of the expected offensive down the Meuse valley.

Major James Lindsay-Oliver and the first battalion reported to the general commanding the Sixty-sixth Infantry Brigade on September 24, and were assigned to the task of helping the 108th Engineers place footbridges across



THE JOYS OF A REAL BATH  
Men of the 130th Infantry in the Meuse-Rhine canal.

Forges Creek, which ran through the middle of No Man's Land in front of Dead Man's Hill, one of the most famous points in the Verdun sector.

Companies A, C and D assisted in this dangerous job early on the morning of September 26, while the attacking infantry on Dead Man's Hill was preparing to advance. Company B, the fourth unit of the battalion, supported the 122nd Machine Gun Battalion, which was covering the advance from positions north of the town of Cumières. Company B lost two killed and four wounded, but the other companies accomplished their task without loss. Meanwhile the other battalions had been assembled in a ravine just south of the Fort de Bourrus, one of the many forts about Verdun, to act as a part of the divisional reserve. After the attack had been launched the units were sent to the vicinity of Dead Man's Hill and Chattancourt.

Chattancourt was being heavily shelled, but the regiment reached its destination without any casualties and bivouacked in the trenches about the town.

The choice of trenches as a camping ground was wise, for in the night the Germans directed heavy fire against Chattancourt. By morning the first battalion had returned, and the entire regiment was ordered to advance to Bethincourt, a town immediately in front of Dead Man's Hill. An attempt was made to march along the Chattancourt - Esnes -



CHATTANCOURT IN 1916

Bethincourt road, but at Esnes the volume of traffic was such that progress was impossible. Transport trains, artillery and ambulances filled the road. The regiment was marched back to the western edge of Dead Man's Hill. Then, proceeding in single file, it slowly worked its way across the ghastly battlefield, where hundreds of thousands were slain in 1916. Bethincourt was reached at 10 a. m. The regiment stayed there until the following morning, September 27.

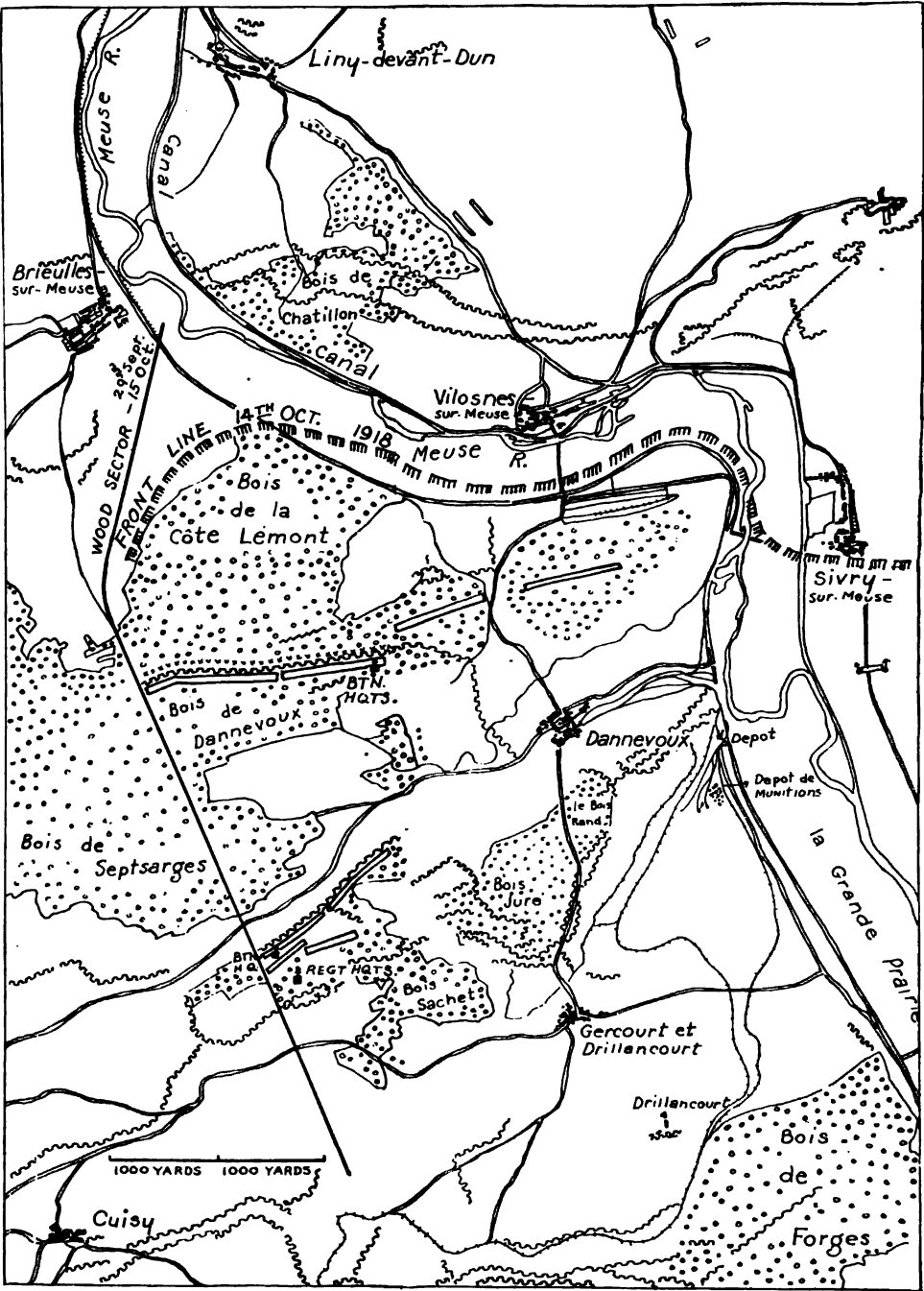
A grotesque incident provoked a wild alarm in the night. A hungry mule, tied to the rear of an ammunition wagon, chewed the lid from a box of hand grenades. He bit into a grenade and "went west" with a bang which startled the camp. A sentry nearby, unable to think of any other alarm, shouted, "Gas!" Other sentries repeated the warning cry. In an instant the whole regiment had tumbled out, with gas masks adjusted. The real cause of the alarm was not discovered until someone stumbled over the mule. The driver was found under the wagon, slightly wounded.



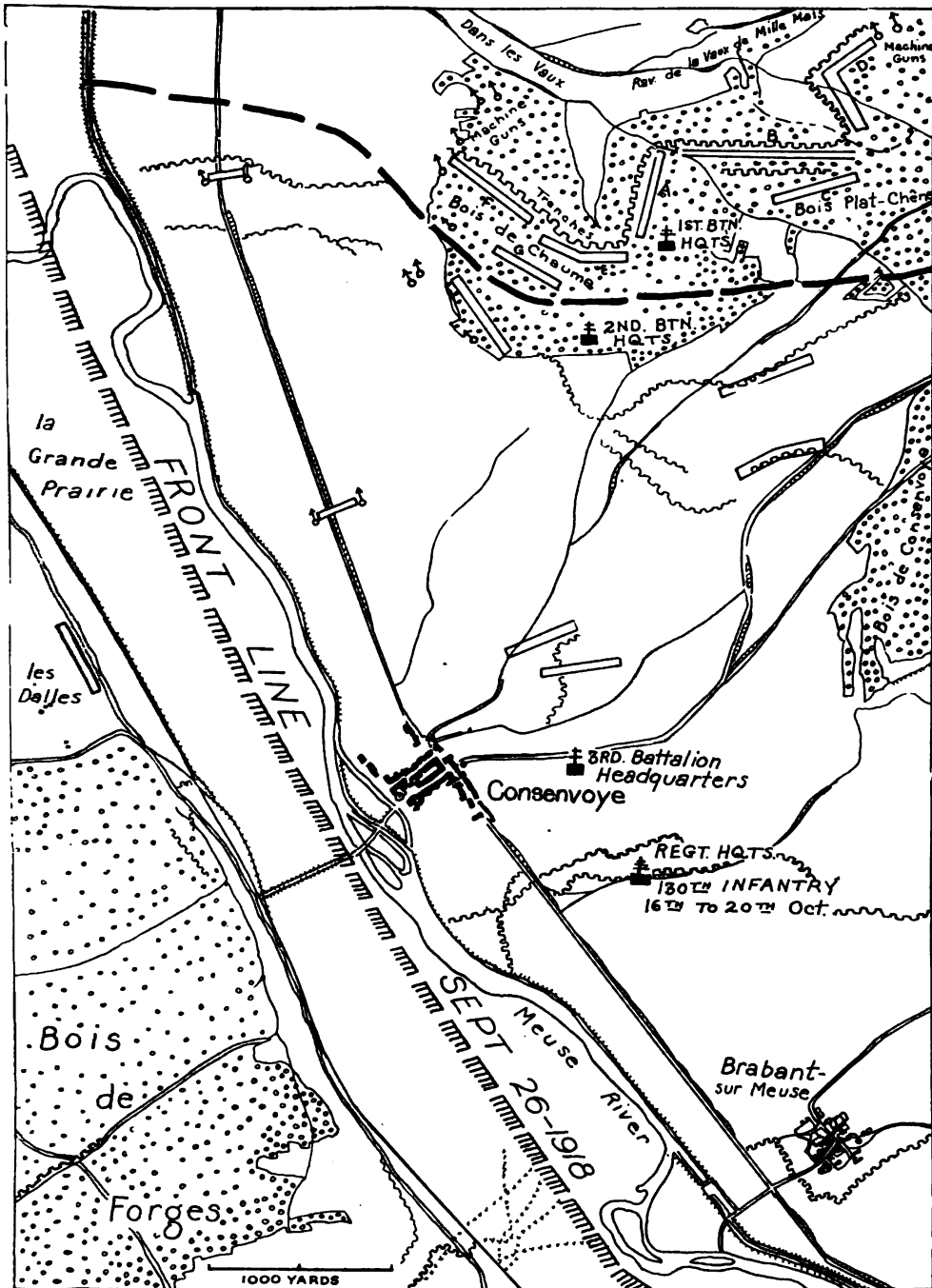
THE POSTOFFICE AT CHATTANCOURT

At the end of 1918.

Orders to make a reconnaissance of the front lines occupied by the Eightieth Division, immediately on the left of the Thirty-third Division's front, were received at about noon on the 28th. The regimental commander, with battalion, company and platoon commanders, made the reconnaissance, and in the evening the regiment advanced toward the sector, bivouacking near the Bois d'en Dela, without any protection from the heavy rain which fell throughout the night. Early the next morning the 130th was



ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEUSE  
The operations of the 130th in the Dannevoux sector.



**ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEUSE RIVER**  
Showing the positions and operations of the 130th from October 9 to 21.

ordered to relieve the 320th Infantry of the Eightieth Division, then holding the line in the Bois de la Côte Lemont. The relief was made with difficulty, as the 320th had suffered heavy casualties and was somewhat disorganized. Heavy gas and shell fire from the right bank of the Meuse, where the underbrush was so thick that one could not see a hundred yards in any direction, contributed to the confusion. Despite these difficulties the relief was effected with minimum casualties.

For more than two weeks the 130th held the sector, undergoing a severe bombardment all the time. Twenty-seven men were killed and nine officers and 135 men were wounded during this period, but the 130th held its lines and inflicted heavy damage on the enemy. Six trench mortars, twenty machine guns, 25,000 grenades and great quantities of ammunition, signal property and pyrotechnics were captured from the Germans. The 132nd Infantry relieved the 130th on October 15, and the latter, crossing to the right bank of the Meuse, took over the trenches of the 129th Infantry north of Consenvoye.

The third battalion already had seen action in this sector, losing many men while participating in attacks by other units of the Thirty-third Division.



THE ADVANCE THROUGH ESNES

A typical scene on the highway through Esnes during the first days of the Argonne advance.

This battalion, under command of Major Edward Bittel, had been attached to the 129th Infantry, and had taken part with that regiment and the 131st in an attack delivered on the morning of October 10. The battalion had crossed the Meuse on the night of the 9th, and on the following morning it leap-frogged through the 131st Infantry in an attack north of Consenvoye in the Bois du Plat Chêne and the Bois de Chaume. The battalion, operating with the 129th, gained all its objectives and dug in on the captured ground. It was this advanced position that the rest of the 130th took over from the 129th on October 16. The regiment continued to hold



MAJOR BITTEL'S HEADQUARTERS IN THE BOIS DE CHAUME

Here and in the Bois du Plat Chêne, the third battalion had joined the 131st Infantry in an attack north of Consenvoye. The officer is Captain Harry L. Streeter.

the new position until October 21. It was constantly under fire, and lost twenty-three men killed and three officers and sixty-six men wounded before relief came. The 130th was relieved by the Second French Colonial Infantry on the night of October 20-21, and withdrew to the vicinity of Fort de Bourrus.

On the evening of the 21st, after a brief rest, the regiment was ordered to make a forced march to Rupt-en-Woëvre, twenty-two miles away. Officers and men were exhausted by the long hike, coming as it did after severe service in the trenches, but their spirits were revived by the promise of at least ten days of rest.

At Rupt-en-Woëvre this promise failed of fulfillment. The hard-pressed enemy could not be permitted to recuperate. Fresh troops were not available. The 130th was sent back into the line. The second battalion on October 23 relieved a battalion of the 313th Infantry, Seventy-ninth Division. The other battalions completed the relief on the 25th.

The main defense line in this new sector lay along heights overlooking the plain of the Woëvre. Outposts were situated in the towns of Fresnes, Champlon and Saulx. This had been known as a quiet sector, but the 130th had no sooner taken it over than it became active. The German artillery increased the volume of its fire from 100 to 1,500 and 2,000 shells a day. The regiment was ordered to give the enemy no rest. Accordingly strong patrols of one and two companies were kept in the field day and night, continually to harass the Germans.

About a mile and a half in front of Fresnes was the Chateau d'Aulnois, an enemy stronghold which soon became a trouble center. For four years the magnificent chateau, with its barns and outbuildings, had furnished the Ger-

mans with comfortable quarters. By this time it had been partly destroyed by artillery fire but still was commodious enough for use as a company headquarters. It was menacing, too, for the reason that the ruins afforded safe shelter for many machine gun teams and patrols. From these hiding places the Germans were able to sally forth at night to lie in wait for the 130th's patrols.

Partly because of the chateau's importance and partly because corps headquarters had been calling for prisoners, it was decided to raid the stronghold, capture some of the defenders, obtain identifications and take or destroy the annoying machine guns. Companies A and C were selected for the big raid. The 123rd Machine Gun Battalion was instructed to coöperate. The commanding officer of that battalion selected positions for his barrage fire, which was to be directed especially against the enemy's right flank to prevent reinforcements from coming forward. The artillery barrage was to begin at 5:00 a. m., with destructive fire on near-by towns. At 5:40 o'clock it was to shift to a standing barrage, 450 yards in front of the chateau. Five minutes later the infantry was to advance, and the barrage was to be moved forward at the rate of 100 yards in four minutes. After bringing the chateau within range, the artillerymen were to box it on three sides with a standing barrage to shut out reinforcements and prevent the garrison from escaping.



PANORAMA OF THE PLAIN OF THE WOEVRE

In the foreground the village of Combres; in the distance Champlon. In the same direction, but not visible, lie Saulx, Wadonville, Marchéville and St. Hilaire.



THE HIGHWAY INTO FRESNES-EN-WOEVRE

Hearing the raiding party's preparations, the Germans opened fire with machine guns and sent up frequent signal rockets to draw artillery support. Evidently the signals were not seen through the heavy fog, for the artillery did not respond. Later it was learned from prisoners that the Germans, misled by the extensive artillery preparation, believed a general attack was to be launched.

The American artillery followed the prearranged schedule, and at 5:45 o'clock the infantry went over. Company C moved forward rapidly on the left, where obstacles were not numerous, but Company A, on the right, had to flounder through mud and wire. Notwithstanding these difficulties, Company A reached the chateau on time and charged beside Company C against the many machine gun emplacements. The gunners were bombed or bayoneted until all resistance had been stamped out and the garrison overwhelmed. Prisoners were quickly lined up; arms, ammunition and supplies were destroyed, and in fifteen minutes the attacking force was on its way back. One German officer and twenty-two men were delivered behind the American lines. They were forced to carry the eight Illinois men who had been wounded and the bodies of two who had been killed in the fight.

The attack was marked by many heroic performances. In fighting their way across the muddy, wire-strung No Man's Land and in mopping up the enemy's machine gun positions, officers and men displayed great bravery. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded later to Lieutenant Richard L. McMunn of Company C, and John G. Burr, a first-class private, for gallantry displayed in this action.





#### ON THE PLAIN OF THE WOEVRE

The terrain beyond Marchéville was a nest of wire and mines. easily in a general attack and therefore had to be taken first in order to clear the jumping-off line.

Marchéville was occupied by two companies of Prussians, with outposts at Hill 233, about three-quarters of a mile to the west, and gun teams in machine gun nests covering the front from Riaville to St. Hilaire. It lay in the sector held by the second battalion of the 130th, which was commanded

Although reports were being received daily to the effect that an armistice soon would be arranged, orders were to keep pushing ahead. It was known that the Allies' commanders were planning to start a great offensive in the direction of Metz on November 14 and that the line would have to be improved in advance of this attack. The task of the 130th was to capture Marchéville, a strongly fortified town, which could not be disposed of



#### ON THE ROAD BETWEEN FRESNES AND MARCHEVILLE



THE FLOODED TOWN OF MARCHEVILLE

by Major Albert H. Gravenhorst. This battalion was ordered to make the attack on the morning of November 10. Prisoners were to be taken for identification and information, and the town was to be seized and held as an outpost position, flanking the towns of Riaville and St. Hilaire and affording an entering wedge with which to break the enemy's defense system between Etain, Conflans, and Metz.

The disposition of the infantry for the attack was unique. Companies F and G jumped off from a line about a quarter of a mile southwest of Marchéville. Companies E and H, acting as support and reserve, moved forward from the direction of the town of Saulx, half a mile in the rear of Company F's left flank, leaving that flank uncovered.

At the zero hour a heavy fog hung over this area, enabling the attacking troops to move forward unseen. As a result they took the enemy completely by surprise. The speed of the attack and the direction from which it came, combined with the fog, so bewildered the Germans that an outpost position manned by one officer and twenty-six men was



THE WRECK OF A BANK IN ETAIN



taken without much trouble. As the skirmish line reached the outskirts of the village, however, it encountered an aroused and ready foe. Terrific machine gun fire from prepared positions in the buildings of the town checked the advance and forced the Americans to seek cover in trenches and shell holes. Artillery fire against the center of the town was called for and given. A few minutes later Captain Fred Givens, commander of Company F, sent back word that the infantry was going forward and the bombardment should cease. The cannonading stopped. Soon three red star rockets proclaimed Marchéville captured and all objectives reached. Many of the Germans had been killed, and all the survivors—six officers and eighty-two men—were taken prisoners. Twelve machine guns were destroyed.



A STREET SCENE IN ETAIN

Etain was one of the important German defenses in the system of which Metz was the center.

American losses had been severe. Many officers and men had been wounded by machine gun fire. Since there were no motor ambulances nearer than the reverse slope of a hill nearly five miles away, the wounded men were carried by relays of bearers over a difficult terrain.

In the afternoon the enemy counterattacked in force behind a barrage of heavy guns. The Germans reached the eastern edge of Marchéville, and the situation for a time was serious. Then the American artillery laid a counter-barrage exactly on the enemy's line, inflicting heavy losses and breaking up the attack, the enemy retiring in disorder. This attack by the 130th, starting just thirty hours before the armistice was declared, was one of the last minor engagements of the great war. The originality of the tactics employed and the skill manifested in the execution of the attack made the

U. S. ARMY FIELD MESSAGE						
TIME FILED	NO.	SENT BY	TIME	RECEIVED BY	TIME	CHECK
		Clinch	8:21			
THESE SPACES FOR SIGNAL OPERATORS ONLY						
From <u>Prk I</u>						
At <u>P.C. GARR</u>						
Date <u>11/11/18</u>		Hour <u>9:21</u>		No. <u>4</u>		HOW SENT
To <u>Prk I</u>						
<p>Armistice signed; firing to cease;  troops remain where they are; take  necessary steps to take up a defensive  position, ordered in depth. No  cheering. No intercomm. with the  enemy. Flamed enemy approach  with white flag, blooded and  sent him to Jones.</p> <p><i>K. J. Clinch</i></p>						

#### THE ARMISTICE IS SIGNED

The message received by Colonel Clinnin on the morning of November 11, 1918.

operation rank with the most daring and successful maneuvers of the whole war. The exploit won letters of commendation from the brigade, division, corps and army commanders.

Many officers and men won medals for bravery displayed during this attack. Among them was Captain Givens, who, although wounded, refused to be removed until the attack had succeeded. Private Clarence G. Malott of Company F lost his life in a single-handed attack on a machine gun nest, a deed for which he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. First Sergeant Curtis M. Crisp of Company F received a similar award for gallantry in this action, and William Bourne Clemmons, a Y. M. C. A. worker attached to the battalion, was recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his exceptional services as a stretcher bearer. Clemmons was under heavy machine gun and artillery fire from 6 to 11 o'clock on the morning of the attack, but worked fearlessly to save the lives of wounded men.

On the morning of the war's last day, November 11, at 5:00 o'clock, another attack was launched in conjunction with units in adjoining sectors. At 8:21 a. m., however, the brigade commander, notified that the armistice



**AIRPLANE VIEW OF THE TOWN OF CONFLANS**

One of the great German railheads back of the Argonne. Hundreds of freight cars are clearly visible in the background.

had been signed, ordered the regiment to cease firing and hold all positions. That order brought a sudden end to the most important campaign in which the 130th had taken part. Thirty-three men had been killed, twelve officers and 306 men had been wounded, eleven had been captured, and three reported missing during the regiment's occupation of this Woëvre sector.

The total casualties, from July 12 to November 11, were as follows:

	Officers	Other Ranks
Killed .....	0	89
Wounded .....	25	537
Prisoners .....	0	11
Missing .....	0	3
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>25</b>	<b>640</b>

In the four months of service in the line the 130th had been confronted at different times by the Tenth Bavarian Infantry, R. I. R.; the First Austrian Division; the Fifth Storm Battalion (Prussian); the 213th Infantry, R. I. R.; the Sixtieth Landwehr Regiment; the 365th Landwehr Regiment, and the Second Austrian Division.

The 129th Infantry relieved the 130th on November 12, and the latter marched to Ambly and its vicinity, where the hard-worked Illinoisans had a chance to rest and refit themselves after forty-seven days of continuous service in the line. The regiment was occupied with reorganization, for 200 replacements were sent forward at that time.

From December 7 to 20 the 130th was on the march into Luxemburg. The four months spent in the duchy, in Bittendorf and its vicinity, will be remembered by the men of the regiment as the most enjoyable period of their foreign service. The war was over, so far as fighting was concerned. Although training was resumed, it was of a modified character, intended simply to keep the regiment physically fit. Schools were established to give instruction in military and general educational matters. The several welfare organizations provided entertainment and reading matter.

The 130th Infantry always had boasted of having the best transport in the division, and under the watchful eye of Colonel Clinnin it was developed to an even higher degree of efficiency during the after-armistice days. At that time General Pershing, after an inspection, wrote to the regimental commander that the transport was not equalled by that of any other organization in the American Expeditionary Forces.

General Pershing reviewed the entire Thirty-third Division in April, 1919, and a few days later the homeward journey was begun. The entrainment of the 130th began April 24, but it was May 11 before the entire command had



COMPANY H PASSING HEADQUARTERS AT CONFLANS



**MAJORS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY**

Top row: Frank P. Auld, Harry M. Brown, James J. Dineen.

Second row: Albert H. Gravenhorst, Ray H. Humphrey.

Bottom row: Elmer G. Lindroth, Arthur W. Smith, J. H. Woodward, Jr.



made the trip to Brest, passed through the disinfecting process, and boarded the transport Siboney.

After a stormy voyage the regiment landed at Hoboken on the morning of May 20. Officers and men from other states than Illinois were detached at Camp Mills, N. Y., and the Illinois contingent then entrained for Chicago and Camp Grant.

The regiment participated in a parade and homecoming celebration in Chicago, then went to Rockford for demobilization. The last men were discharged on May 31, and the regiment ceased to exist.

The 130th had served its country in the World War from July 25, 1917, to May 31, 1919—nearly two years. It had developed an efficiency not surpassed by any other regiment in the United States' fighting forces. Nearly one hundred men of the 130th lie buried in the battlefields of France, where they gave their all for liberty. Some fell near Albert, some near Verdun, and others on the plain of the Woëvre.

Those who returned came back conscious of hard duty well performed. The 130th Infantry never had received special favors, nor had it sought them. Officers and men had been imbued with the spirit of the soldier, to whom an order received is an order to be obeyed. All tasks assigned had been performed promptly and well. Every member of the regiment may be proud of its glorious achievements, now written indelibly on the pages of American history.



AT THE DIVISION REVIEW AT ETTELBRUCK  
General Edward L. King, Colonel Edgar A. Myer, Colonel John V. Clinnin.

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 130TH INFANTRY WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Second Lieutenants*

George Aloysius Burke  
Howard C. Sawyer  
Ennis Stillwell  
Slater H. Vallintine

*Sergeant Major*

Lawrence McCullum

*Sergeants*

Rutherford Alcock  
Ivory Bush  
Ferdinand Decker  
Edw. H. Moschenrose  
James Reeder  
Russel Roberts  
William Watson

*Corporals*

William J. Allen  
Curtis L. Albison  
John Balch  
Wm. F. Campbell  
Victor Cleveland  
Roy L. Collins  
Melvin H. Connor  
Alphonse F. Couture  
James O. Fields  
William W. Hayden  
Elmer T. Hayward  
Homer Kelly  
William L. Kugelman  
Roscoe M. Lutz  
Pete T. McGovern  
George W. Mills  
Dewey Orr  
Rosamond L. Reed  
Harry L. Riddle  
Nolan Smith  
Ira Swanger  
E. D. Tongan  
Leslie Wade  
Ralph Weeden

*Mechanics*

Hallie Avis  
Henry Fouts

*Saddlers*

Quido G. Coluzzi  
Frank H. Sherlock

*Wagoners*

Oscar R. Hanson  
Otha Randolph

*Cooks*

Claude Dalton  
Felix J. Eckiro

*Musician*

William Richards

*Privates, First Class*

George H. Anna  
Richard F. Cartan  
Angelo Cremo  
Kirk H. Duncan  
James M. Ellis  
Hugh M. Floro  
Doris F. Hall  
William Heide  
Lee N. Kibler  
Oscar Male  
Clarence G. Malott  
Cardell F. Morgan  
Recco Mostocone  
Theodore F. Neby  
Axel W. Nelson  
Sam Pellettiere  
William Pollard  
Ollie E. Pullen  
Ben Robenovitz  
Fred Rawland  
Charles Stokes  
Clarence Sutton  
Ernest W. Vancil

*Privates*

Otto Baldwin  
Rex C. Beecher  
Ernest Beth  
Nickolas Benedetto  
Romulus Berens  
Henry Bergfeldt  
Fred C. Bicknell  
Levi Bishop  
Admiral R. Blakeslee  
Andrew Bormai  
George Brandenburg  
Marinus Christensen  
John M. Connelly  
Ernest M. Coulter  
Edward F. Cronin  
Roy F. Dalton  
James Dandy  
Andrew Davis  
James Demorest  
Hilder Fredrickson  
Julius D. Froehde  
Clarence Fitzgerald  
Patrick J. Gaynor  
Fred E. Gelsinger  
Dennie Grace  
Frank Gruba  
Roy W. Hamm  
Carl Hanson  
William J. Hartnett

Harry Hawk  
 Ova D. A. Hazelbaker  
 Martin O. Heggen  
 Theodore Hoffman  
 Wm. B. Hoffman  
 Marshall Innis  
 William Icheln  
 Waldemar Jensen  
 Emil H. Johnson  
 Ernest Johnson  
 Walter Johnson  
 Michael M. Kirlin  
 Albert Knutson  
 Carl Kruse  
 Clifford Larson  
 Raymond R. Leathers  
 John Liberis  
 Elmer W. Lindahl  
 La Force Lock  
 Henry Love  
 Lloyd O. Magee  
 William E. Mabry  
 Chester Manuel  
 Walter McCoy  
 Lewis A. Morken  
 Frank J. Myers  
 Jesse G. Nixon  
 Bernard Paddock  
 Otto W. Peterson  
 Warner P. Pierson

William O. Quirk  
 Lawrence C. Reed  
 Stanley Sakowich  
 Bernel G. Sawstad  
 Oscar Sandrock  
 Walter J. Scherer  
 William L. Schrank  
 Daniel Schue  
 Herbert Selle  
 Jake Schrago  
 Johannes Snater  
 Mathias Specht  
 Ralph M. Spink  
 Arvid S. Sternquist  
 Roy Strond  
 Fred Studeman  
 George Smith  
 Joseph Svoboda  
 Marion M. Sunhorst  
 Samuel T. Taylor  
 Alexander Terzegolsky  
 Roy L. Thomas  
 Jesse Thompson  
 Albert Thompson  
 Oscar L. Thompson  
 Charles J. Tweedy  
 Glenn West  
 Elza L. Willis  
 Ray Wilson

#### DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

##### *Major*

Ray H. Humphrey  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *Captain*

Fred G. Givens  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *First Lieutenant*

Claude W. Austin  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *Second Lieutenant*

Richard L. McMunn  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre

##### *Corporals*

Herman B. Bartels  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Vincenzo Caserta  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Victor A. Cleveland  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 James O. Fields  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre with Gold Star  
 Ira V. Swanger  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *First Sergeant*

Curtis M. Crisp  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre

##### *Sergeants*

John E. Daughy  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre  
 Lou H. Drennon  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *Mechanic*

John G. Burr  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *Privates, First Class*

Richard W. Holland  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Elmer J. Kilcher  
 Distinguished Service Cross

##### *Privates*

Charles W. Booth  
 Distinguished Service Cross  
 Croix de Guerre  
 James Lake  
 Distinguished Service Cross

William B. Lyerly  
Distinguished Service Cross  
James G. Malott  
Distinguished Service Cross  
Ollie Pope  
Distinguished Service Cross

Herman S. Seibel  
Distinguished Service Cross  
Willis Rodgers  
Distinguished Service Cross  
Croix de Guerre

## CITATIONS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

*Major Ray H. Humphrey, Medical Corps:*

Near Bois de Septsarges, October 4, 1918, Major Humphrey, then captain, having just been transferred to the 130th Infantry, was seriously wounded in the head when on his way to take up his work at the regimental aid post. He refused to be evacuated, but continued on duty caring for the wounded. Later he proceeded under severe artillery fire to the battalion aid post, where he continued his work under most trying conditions.

*Captain Fred G. Givens:*

Near Marchéville, November 10, 1918, Captain Givens led the attack with exceptional bravery, and, although wounded when passing through a heavy barrage, would not leave his company until his objective had been reached and the plans made for its defense.

*First Lieutenant Claude W. Austin:*

South of Dun-sur-Meuse, October 5, 1918, a shell struck an old building in front of a dugout occupied by one of Lieutenant Austin's machine gun teams, wounding two of the men who were just coming out and hurling them to the bottom of the steps. Fire spread from the building to the dugout, which contained grenades and high explosives. Lieutenant Austin unhesitatingly ran to the rescue of the two men and dragged them out, but they died a short time later. He then entered the dugout and brought out five unwounded men, undoubtedly saving their lives, for the dugout was totally destroyed a short time later. The entire exploit was carried on under sniper fire, as well as machine gun and artillery fire from three sides of the salient.

*Second Lieutenant Richard L. McMunn:*

Near Chateau et Ferme d'Aulnois, November 7, 1918, Lieutenant McMunn, leading his platoon against a strong machine gun emplacement, cut his way through two bands of barbed wire and succeeded in reaching the stronghold. Although suffering from severe wounds he remained on duty until the action was over.

*First Sergeant Curtis M. Crisp, Company F:*

At Marchéville, November 10, 1918, when all the company runners had been wounded in a raid, Sergeant Crisp volunteered to establish liaison with an adjacent company. While going through a heavy barrage under sniper fire from three directions, he was knocked unconscious by the concussion of a shell. Upon recovering he succeeded in killing a sniper who was picking off our men and had wounded his company commander. Though unable to stand, Sergeant Crisp insisted on staying on duty with his company.

*Sergeant John E. Daughty, Company F:*

In the Evergreen Woods, November 6, 1918, Sergeant Daughty, while on daylight patrol, displayed exceptional bravery when with one man he fought a large force of the enemy, killing a German officer and two machine gunners. Surrounded by the enemy, he captured a German corporal and fought his way out with his pistol, not having time to load his rifle. He marched his prisoner to the rear at the point of his bayonet, though running the risk of being captured himself, in order to carry out orders to take at least one prisoner.

*Sergeant Lou H. Drennon, Company F:*

At Marchéville, November 10, 1918, Sergeant Drennon, although severely wounded, continued to lead his men until they had reached their objective, when he fell completely exhausted.

*Corporal Herman B. Bartels, Company F:*

At Marchéville, November 10, 1918, while maintaining liaison with an adjacent company in a raid, Corporal Bartels personally cleared out two dugouts, taking a number of prisoners. He was later wounded, but continued in action until he fell.



#### WINNERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Top row: Captain Fred G. Givens, Second Lieutenant Richard L. McMunn, First Sergeant Curtis M. Crisp.

Second row: Sergeant L. H. Drennon, Corporal Vincenzo Caserta, Corporal V. A. Cleveland.

Bottom row: Privates Ollie Pope, Willis Rodgers, Elmer J. Kilcher.

*Corporal Vincenzo Caserta, Company F:*

Near Marchéville, November 10, 1918, Corporal Caserta, although wounded early in the attack, continued to lead his squad to its objective and refused to leave the field until ordered to do so by an officer.

*Corporal Victor A. Cleveland (deceased), Company L:*

In the Bois de Chaume, October 12, 1918, Corporal Cleveland led a detail to the rescue of an officer who had been caught in a heavy barrage of gas and high explosive shells and severely wounded. In an effort to get the wounded officer to an aid station this courageous soldier was killed.

*Corporal James O. Fields, Company D:*

At Fresnes-en-Woëvre, November 10, 1918, Corporal Fields went into an intense enemy barrage to rescue a wounded soldier. While accomplishing this heroic feat he was severely wounded.

*Corporal Ira V. Swanger (deceased), Company F:*

At Marchéville, November 10, 1918, after showing exceptional bravery and judgment in leading his squad against machine gun positions Corporal Swanger was mortally wounded. Realizing he had no chance for recovery, he refused to permit stretcher-bearers to carry him to the rear, urging them to care for others whose condition was less serious.

*Mechanic John G. Burr, Company A:*

Near Raiville, November 9, 1918, Mechanic Burr, as he was administering first aid to a wounded comrade in a raid, was attacked by several of the enemy. Undaunted by the superior force, he succeeded in killing four and driving off the others.

*Private (First-Class) Richard W. Holland, Company F:*

Near Marchéville, November 10, 1918, when his platoon was in an isolated position and exposed to heavy fire, Private Holland volunteered to carry a message through the rain of machine gun bullets and shells. His rifle was shot from his hand, but he delivered the message.

*Private (First-Class) Elmer J. Kilcher, Company D:*

At Fresnes-en-Woëvre, November 10, 1918, Private Kilcher voluntarily returned through the enemy's barrage after a raid to rescue another soldier who had been wounded. He was himself wounded.

*Private Charles W. Booth, Company F:*

Near Marchéville, November 10, 1918, after being wounded twice by sniper fire, Private Booth continued to crawl forward until he located and killed the sniper who was picking off our men.

*Private James Lake, Company B:*

Near Bellicourt, September 29, 1918, with eight other soldiers, Private Lake assisted his company commander in cleaning out enemy dugouts and capturing 242 prisoners.

*Private William B. Lyerly, Company D:*

Near Bellicourt, September 29, 1918, with eight other soldiers, Private Lyerly assisted his company commander in cleaning out enemy dugouts and capturing 242 prisoners.

*Private Ollie Pope, Company C:*

Between St. Quentin and Cambrai, October 9, 1918, Private Pope was wounded and, after having his wounds dressed, was unable to locate his company. He returned, however, to the front line, and fought throughout the day, locating and returning to his own organization after dark.

*Private Herman S. Seibel, Company D:*

Near Bellicourt, September 29, 1918, with eight other soldiers, Private Seibel assisted his company commander in cleaning out enemy dugouts and capturing 242 prisoners.

*Private Willis Rodgers, Company M:*

Near Consenvoye, October 10, 1918, Private Rodgers, although suffering painfully from an infected hand, acted as stretcher-bearer while his company was in action. He made five trips to the dressing stations, a total distance of about twenty-five miles, under shell fire at all stages of his journey.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 130TH INFANTRY TO WHOM GENERAL PERSHING  
AWARDED CERTIFICATES FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS  
AND CONSPICUOUS SERVICE

*Colonel*

John V. Clinnin

*Major*

Ray H. Humphrey

*First Lieutenant*

Clyde Brown

*Corporal*

George A. Platt

*Mechanic*

John G. Burr

*Wagoner*

Vigo Olsen

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 130TH INFANTRY WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY  
BY GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Pershing and General Bell.

*Colonel*

John V. Clinnin

*Battalion Sergeant Major*

John J. Walsh

*Majors*

† Edward Bittel  
Albert H. Gravenhorst  
Ray H. Humphrey  
Jabish H. Woodward, Jr.

*First Sergeants*

Paul J. Frankenstein  
Walter C. Glass  
Roy Hanna  
Glenn Kimble  
Lester R. Langley  
Huestis A. Mills  
Charles E. Monroney  
Sam Mopps  
Alma White  
John Winstead

*Captains*

E. Wayne Hight  
Earl Hunter  
Harmon L. Ruff  
Jesse W. Scott

*Band Sergeant*

Edward F. Swift

*First Lieutenants*

Loren C. Batson  
† Clyde Brown  
Stanley B. Brown  
Loren C. Clayton  
Merlin L. Dappert  
Michael B. Driscoll  
Thomas W. Farwell  
Henry T. Johnson  
Carl McKinney  
Glenn Miller  
Harry M. Starnes  
Donald W. Stevenson  
George R. Wiley  
Hamilton L. Woods  
Fred W. Zimmerman

*Sergeants*

Oscar E. Alt  
William Althorp  
Claude S. Ayers  
Jesse Bagley  
Ivan C. Bounds  
Ernest Bozarth  
Cecil R. Brayshaw  
Luther Bumpas  
Henry Burtschi  
Eugene Caffery  
Ben Campbell  
Carl L. CanHolten  
Edon R. Carson  
Edmund Coady  
Edward E. Cochran  
Claude N. Curry  
Mark J. Davis  
Isaac Dowling  
Harry Elston  
Carl E. Emonson  
George E. Endley  
Frank Erhart  
Clayton Frailey  
Arthur F. Frick  
George Gale  
Maurice H. Gangloff  
Otto R. Gilliland

*Second Lieutenants*

Walter S. Capps  
Charles L. Davis  
Halbert Dwight  
Ira M. Field  
Frank R. Johnson  
Edward McNally  
Floyd F. Mann  
William J. Sigler  
Clarence S. Miller  
Earl V. Nelson

*Regimental Sergeant Majors*

Louis A. Jackson  
Harry E. Osborn

Benjamin Gnagey  
 Harry D. Gotti  
 Chester F. Greene  
 William L. Grommett  
 August W. Haak  
 Leslie J. Hanauer  
 William J. Heading  
 Samuel J. Herring  
 James R. Herman  
 Robert L. Hinman  
 John J. Hogan  
 Roy Hull  
 Frank S. Hunt  
 Charles A. Jameison  
 Alden N. Kenkins  
 John J. Keens  
 C. Lauderbach  
 Fred D. Lind  
 Byron Markel  
 Milton A. Martin  
 Chalmer M. Mayo  
 Phillip Miner  
 Earl W. Muma  
 † Stanley B. Mundell  
 Thomas H. Neal  
 David E. Noe  
 Charles E. O'Neil  
 Edward A. Palmer  
 Clyde R. Reedy  
 John O. Rising  
 Glen C. Scillian  
 Edward L. Scott  
 David Sharrock  
 Charles E. Simmons  
 Donald C. Smith  
 Ora Smith  
 Maurice S. Stout  
 Ben Thompson  
 Chauncey O. Todd  
 Arthur Trower  
 Joseph S. Tully  
 John F. Vraeske  
 David R. Waggoner  
 Ethelbert Ward  
 Clinton F. Wisthoff  
 Art L. Wood

#### *Corporals*

Daniel E. Ashbaugh  
 Earl L. Ayers  
 Roscoe V. Badlen  
 Ralph Biard  
 William J. Bland  
 Francis F. Bobeck  
 James A. Boucher  
 George H. Bowers  
 Harry Bush  
 Walter Byrum  
 Stanford Carrington  
 Oliver Cleaver

Cloyce I. Dixon  
 Nicholas Douster  
 Edward Fitzsimmons  
 Wallace R. Fromm  
 Charles L. Hammer  
 Peter T. Heraty  
 Charles L. Hicks  
 Laverl C. Hudson  
 George James  
 Jesse James  
 David A. Jenkins  
 Ivan Johnson  
 Floyd Kennedy  
 Reedy Lathrop  
 Carl R. Lind  
 Ray W. Lindskog  
 Guy F. McNett  
 Elbert Matson  
 Elmer Miller  
 Edward Moon  
 William F. Myer  
 Tom Parker  
 Karl Pine  
 † George A. Platt  
 Harvey Reynolds  
 Ola D. Richards  
 Shirley E. Rogers  
 Fred L. Rosemyer  
 George Scheffow  
 Eugene Schmidt  
 Werner M. Schomaker  
 Edward Shannon  
 Jesse E. Smith  
 John Stanwich  
 Loren L. Smith  
 Andrew L. Soloski  
 Edmund Spitzler  
 Clarence A. Swanson  
 Rudolph D. Thompson  
 William Townsend  
 Robert L. Wade  
 Clifford Weatherhold  
 Joubert Webb  
 Noble White  
 Audie V. Willborn

#### *Cooks*

Otto H. Broker  
 Swan Hedlund  
 Shirley W. Reynolds

#### *Mechanics*

† John G. Burr  
 John Dietz  
 Okla DePriest  
 Sydney Morgan  
 John Mopps  
 Louis Scherer  
 † Joseph T. Vrating



*Wagoners*

Everett Davidson  
 Walter Goff  
 Herbert E. Gray  
 Arthur Magrini  
 † Vigo Olson  
 George A. Trover

*Bugler*

Fred M. Cornell

*Privates, First Class*

George E. Anderson  
 George H. Anna  
 Hobert Brooks  
 William C. Brose  
 Peter Brunsmann  
 John Buckells  
 Peter B. Budnik  
 Roscoe D. Bunch  
 George Butler  
 William L. Capen  
 Frank Carlson  
 John A. Carlson  
 Axel Christianson  
 Elvin W. Clammer  
 Rudolph L. Coad  
 John H. Craig  
 Louis Czech  
 Frank M. Davis  
 Emil Evanod  
 John Feltes  
 Frederick Goodhouse  
 John J. Hallas  
 John C. Havalowski  
 Rudolph J. Helm  
 Owen L. Hughes  
 Truman E. Isley  
 Waldo Isome  
 Robert N. Jackson  
 Peter Jensen  
 Gustave A. Johnson  
 Lloyd H. Johnson  
 Elton D. Kines  
 Leo C. Knaak  
 Floyd Knapp  
 Arthur J. Langlois  
 William LeMay  
 Alvin B. Lins  
 Cecil C. Long  
 John H. Lorch  
 Harold J. McLaughlin  
 Earl Markle  
 Robert W. Meyer  
 Ora Mills  
 Elmer E. Mitchell  
 William Monroe  
 Ora Mullen  
 Sairgie Nowak  
 Floyd Palmer  
 Arthur Pederson

Harold C. Raymond  
 Hiram S. Rhoads  
 Angelo Romano  
 Stanley Sackowich  
 William L. Sanders  
 William J. Schluetter  
 William Seward  
 Elmer W. Shy  
 Edward Smith  
 Lawrence Smith  
 Fred A. Steffregan  
 Louis L. Thomas  
 Gay Thompson  
 Leonnard Wakefield  
 William H. Weber  
 Clem J. Wideman

*Privates*

Eugene E. Alexander  
 Logan Atkinson  
 Blain Amburgey  
 George H. Anna  
 Roy Bauer  
 John C. Bestman  
 Carl L. Brightwell  
 Aaron M. Caplan  
 Harold Chirhart  
 Arnold F. Dalms  
 Fred Danlke  
 Lou's F. Davis  
 Oscar L. Davis  
 Ora Genterman  
 Phillip C. Gingrass  
 Otto E. Grand  
 Robert C. Hemminger  
 Ernest C. Hibbs  
 Oscar Hile  
 Gim Hodzer  
 Eddie T. Jirsa  
 Edward Johnson  
 Fred L. Johnson  
 William J. Kanges  
 Earl L. Kelly  
 Ray T. Kelmkamp  
 Henry Klindt  
 Paul Kraft  
 Paul J. Kroft  
 Max Litvinchuk  
 Edward D. Lloyd  
 Ekkett A. Louis  
 John Makris  
 Chester Manuel  
 Edward Marsik  
 William F. Modglin  
 Charles Moskato  
 David C. Morray  
 Chester Musselman  
 Leo R. O'Hara  
 James O'Sullivan  
 Charles S. Perry



## CAPTAINS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Top row: Fred Beard, Samuel J. Bradfield, Edward H. Brian, Grover C. Bullington.  
Second row: Berry W. Cooper, Vance Courtright, Merlin L. Dappert.  
Third row: Robert W. Davis, F. G. W. Easterday, James A. Eaton, Lafayette French, Jr.  
Bottom row: John B. Hazel, E. Wayne Hight, Fred W. Hoffman, Oscar G. Holm.



#### CAPTAINS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Top row: Earl Hunter, Seba Hutson, Harrison M. Hutchings, Carl F. Lauer.

Second row: Melvin B. McGuigan, George W. Mills, Grady O'Hair.

Third row: Harmon L. Ruff, Jesse W. Scott, John M. Stiers, Harry S. Streeter.

Bottom row: Lawrence E. Thorne, Sam Toler, Louis M. Tomlinson, William G. Utterback.

Edward Putman  
 William Rayman  
 Andrew Richardson  
 Susa Risser  
 John Sears  
 Gerald Schultz  
 Alfred J. Schurmann  
 George M. Shellhammer  
 Clyde V. Snider  
 Philip Steffens  
 Clair Stockin

Leonard Taylor  
 William F. Thornton  
 Kamiel Van Hecke  
 Thomas Voorney  
 Erwin Webb  
 Benedict N. West  
 Walter Whalen  
 Raymond H. Willison  
 Harry A. Yates  
 Anton Yowise  
 Phillip J. Ziemann

## OFFICERS OF 130TH INFANTRY WHO SERVED OVERSEAS

*Colonel*

John V. Clinnin

*Lieutenant Colonels*

Edward Bittel  
 John J. Bullington  
 Edward J. Lang  
 James Lindsay-Oliver  
 Oliver J. Troster

*Majors*

Frank P. Auld, M. C.  
 Harry M. Brown  
 Joseph E. Brady  
 James J. Dineen  
 Albert H. Gravenhorst  
 Ray H. Humphrey, M. C.  
 Elmer G. Lindroth  
 Jabish H. Woodward, Jr.

*Captains*

Fred Beard  
 Samuel J. Bradfield  
 Edward H. Brian  
 Grover C. Bullington, M. C.  
 John H. Coady (later Major, 131st Infantry)  
 Berry W. Cooper  
 Vance Courtright  
 Merlin L. Dappert  
 Robert W. Davis  
 Fred G. W. Easterday  
 Lafayette French, Jr.  
 Fred G. Givens  
 John B. Hazel, M. C.  
 E. Wayne Hight  
 Fred W. Hoffman, D. C.  
 Oscar G. Holm  
 Earl Hunter  
 Harrison M. Hutchings  
 Seba Hutson  
 George F. Johnson, D. C.  
 Carl F. Lauer, Chaplain  
 Melvin B. McGuigan  
 George W. Mills, D. C.  
 Grady O'Hair

Albert C. Reynolds  
 Harmon L. Ruff  
 Jesse W. Scott  
 John M. Stiers, M. C.  
 Harry S. Streeter  
 Lawrence E. Thorne  
 Sam Toler  
 Louis M. Tomlinson, M. C.  
 William G. Utterback  
 John Woodward  
 Louis N. Yerkes, M. C.

*First Lieutenants*

Claude W. Austin  
 Marion Anderson  
 Loren C. Batson  
 Herman J. Bosse  
 Howard Bridges  
 Clyde Brown  
 Stanley B. Brown  
 George Cassady  
 Loren C. Clayton  
 Elvin M. Colbert  
 Rex H. Cook  
 John A. Dahl, M. C.  
 Clyde M. Deardorff  
 Charles L. Davis  
 Harry Downs  
 Michael B. Driscoll  
 Walter B. Edmonson  
 Thomas W. Farwell  
 James A. Fishburne  
 Joe E. Harris  
 Herbert H. Harris  
 Paul W. Howard  
 Edward J. Kane  
 Silas N. Lennox  
 Roscoe C. Long  
 John E. Martin  
 Paul J. McCullough  
 Ted McCullough  
 Thomas F. McDonough  
 Carl McKinney  
 J. Glen Miller  
 Don Morris  
 Harry C. Mussman



#### FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Left to right, top row: Loren C. Batson, Clyde Brown, Stanley B. Brown, Elvin M. Colbert.

Second row: Rex H. Cook, John A. Dahl, Clyde M. Deardorff, Harry Downs.

Third row: Thomas Farwell, Joe E. Harris, Paul W. Howard, Edward J. Kane.

Fourth row: Silas Lennox, Roscoe C. Long, Paul J. McCullough, Thomas F. McDonough.



## FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Left to right, top row: Oliver C. Brown, George Cassady, Harland Kilborn, Ted McCullough.  
 Second row: Harry C. Mussman, Carl McKinney, John Eden Martin, Earl V. Nelson.  
 Third row: J. Glen Miller, Don Morris, Walter P. Shoaff, Harry M. Starnes.  
 Fourth row: Donald W. Stevenson, George R. Wiley, Hamilton L. Wood, Wm. H. Ziemer.



#### LIEUTENANTS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Top row: First Lieutenants Marion Anderson, Howard Bridges, J. A. Fishburne, H. H. Harris.

Second row: First Lieutenants Frank W. Rawalt, Emmett F. Wright, Fred W. Zimmerman, Second Lieutenant Marvel L. Baker.

Third row: Second Lieutenants B. A. Boykin, Donald Heffron, H. J. Heinz, F. R. Johnson.

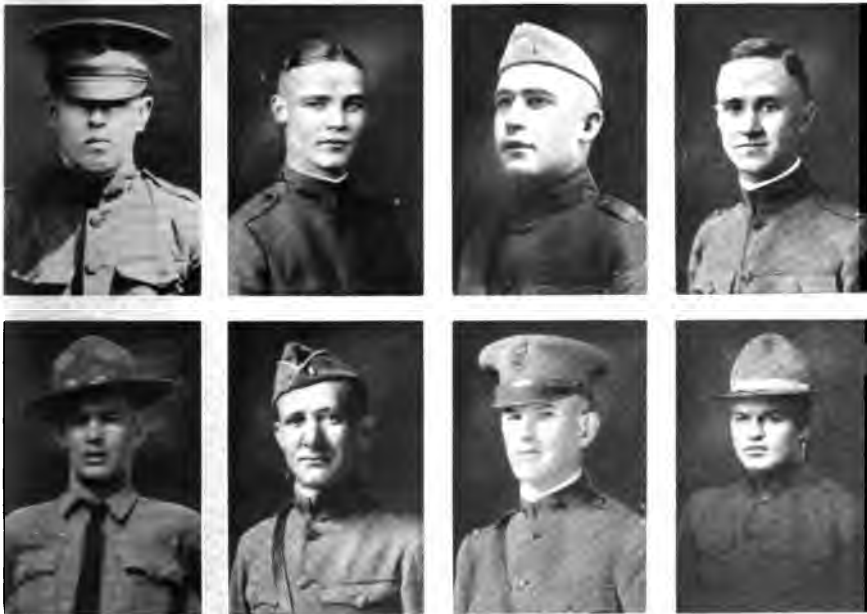
Bottom row: Second Lieutenants E. A. McNally, C. S. Miller, H. A. Mills, J. A. Murphy.

Earl V. Nelson  
Glenn C. Oppy  
Frank W. Rawalt  
Charles Reimer  
Walter P. Shoaff  
Harry M. Starnes  
Donald W. Stevenson  
George R. Wiley  
Hamilton L. Wood  
Emmett F. Wright  
William H. Ziemer  
Fred W. Zimmerman

Halbert Dwight  
Peter Edson  
Ira M. Field  
Leland S. Foster  
Ewing A. Gabryel  
Einer Giaver  
Atticus B. Hatsell  
Donald Heffron  
Hubert J. Heinz  
Frank R. Johnson  
Clyde M. Keith  
Raymond O. McKamey  
Richard L. McMunn  
Edward A. McNally  
Floyd F. Mann  
Fred J. Maloney  
Clarence S. Miller  
Huestis A. Mills  
Roswell C. Mower  
James A. Murphy  
Daniel B. O'Brien  
Walter R. O'Neal  
Edward A. Palmer  
Howard C. Sawyer (deceased)  
Jairus G. Sheldon

*Second Lieutenants*

Marvel L. Baker  
John D. Bancroft  
Dan F. Boggs  
Bernard A. Boykin  
George A. Burke (deceased)  
Walter S. Capps  
Frank Carr  
Thomas F. Carroll  
Arthur E. Daggett  
John V. Dappert  
Robert J. Davis



SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 130TH INFANTRY

Upper row: Frank Carr, Roswell C. Mower, Walter R. O'Neal, Howard C. Sawyer.  
Lower row: Ennis Stillwell, George F. Stretch, Thomas J. Sughrua, Slater H. Vallentine.



William J. Sigler  
 Charles F. Snerly  
 Ennis Stillwell (deceased)  
 George F. Stretch

Thomas J. Sughrua  
 Charles Twiss  
 Sater H. Vallintine (deceased)

#### OFFICERS WHO WERE WITH REGIMENT BEFORE IT WENT OVERSEAS

##### *Colonels*

John J. Garrity  
 Fine W. Smith  
 Frank S. Wood

James A. Eaton

Ralph Fritz  
 Stephen J. Reed, M. C. (deceased)

##### *Lieutenant Colonel*

Elijah P. Clayton

##### *First Lieutenants*

Charles E. Brown  
 Oliver C. Brown  
 Henry T. Johnson  
 Harland Kilborn

##### *Majors*

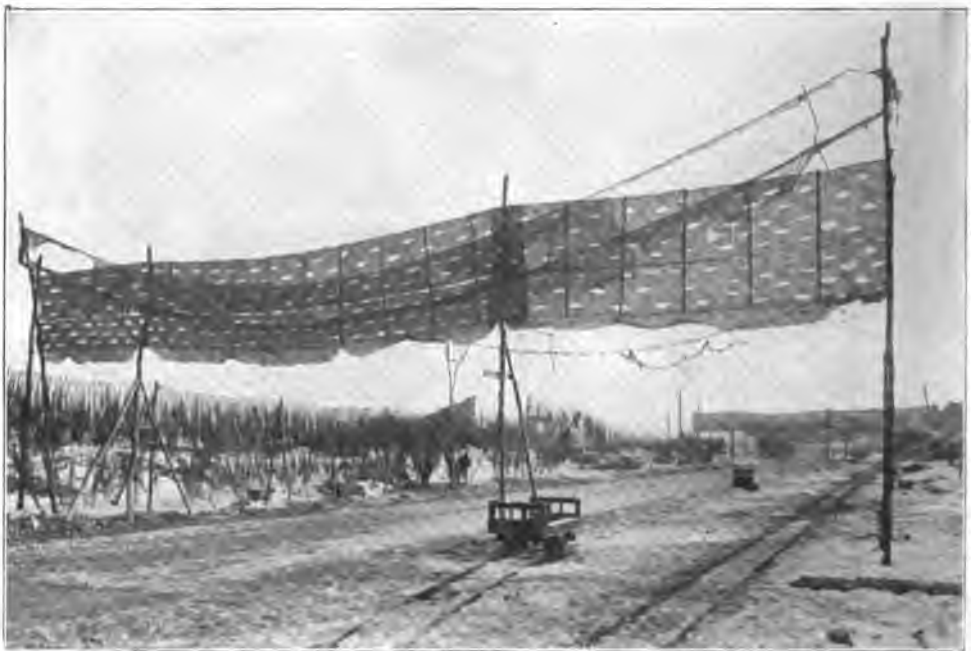
George A. Clotfelter  
 Philip N. Girard  
 William Klauser  
 Arthur W. Smith

##### *Second Lieutenants*

Cleta Henderson  
 Ray Lester  
 James Sewell

##### *Captains*

John Burr  
 Sydney N. Cohen



A CAMOUFLAGED ROAD IN BRAS



AT THE EDGE OF THE BOIS DE FORET, LOOKING EAST TOWARD THE MEUSE

## The 123rd Machine Gun Battalion

MAJOR ALBERT L. CULBERTSON, EDITOR



THE men who saw service in France as members of the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion rallied for the World War under the colors of the old Fifth Illinois Infantry, one of the downstate national guard regiments. They were called out on March 25, 1917, for guard duty, and served as infantrymen for seven months.

Then, in October, the Thirty-third Division was organized at Camp Logan, with Illinois National Guard units as its constituents. The Fifth was broken up to provide men for several auxiliary organizations, among them the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion.

The machine gun company of Quincy, under Captain James P. Beatty, became Company A. Company F, also from Quincy and commanded by Captain Ernest L. Wingerter, became Company B of the new organization, while Company G of Peoria, under Captain Jeremiah McQuade, became Company C. Major William E. Culbertson was given command of the battalion, which was assigned to the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade.

Major Albert L. Culbertson succeeded to the command in January, 1918, and soon afterward a fourth company was added to the battalion, under orders increasing the size of such units. The company selected was Company I (Danville) of the old Fifth, until then a part of the 122nd Machine Gun Battalion. It became Company D of the 123rd with Captain Albert C. Reynolds commanding.

The battalion trained at Camp Logan with the rest of the division until May 1, 1918, when it entrained for Camp Upton. It sailed a fortnight later



**MAJOR ALBERT L. CULBERTSON**  
Commander of the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion during active operations.

from Hoboken on the transport *Agamemnon*.

The voyage was without incident. The battalion landed at Brest on May 24, and remained in bivouac near Camp Pontanezen for five days. Then it moved by train to Oisemont, in the British Somme sector, and by foot to Bouillancourt-en-Sery, where the men were assigned to billets and began a final course of training. On June 9 the battalion was transferred to Cuverville. There the American machine gun equipment was exchanged for British outfits, including animals, wheel transportation and the Vickers .303 machine gun.

After nearly two weeks of practice with the new equipment the battalion left Cuverville, and marched to Eaucourt, where it arrived on the afternoon of June 21. Intensive training, with especial emphasis on

range work, was carried on until July 14, when the unit was ordered to the Australian Corps sector. Two days of marching carried the battalion to the Bois de Querrieu, where it passed to the tactical control of the Australian Corps, of the Fourth British Army. Companies A and B went into the line with the Third Australian Division in the vicinity of Corbie, Hamel and Méricourt, Company C with the Fourth Australian Division near Hangard and Cachy, and Company D with the Second Australian Division in and about Villers-Bretonneux. Thus engaged, under the tutelage of the Australians and in actual contact with the German forces, the battalion received valuable experience which had a great deal to do with its subsequent efficiency as a combat unit.

On August 6 the whole Sixty-fifth Brigade was withdrawn from the Australian Corps sector and placed under the control of the Third British Corps. The 123rd Machine Gun Battalion marched to Daily Mail Woods, where it remained in bivouac until midnight on August 8. At that hour orders were received sending the battalion into the line with the Eighteenth British Division in the vicinity of Méricourt and Sailly-le-Sec, where a British drive was on, and in half an hour the men were on their way to Round Woods, ready for action.

But orders were changed. The Eighteenth British Division, with the 123rd Battalion attached, was sent to relieve the Forty-seventh Division in the Albert sector. The 123rd spent the night of August 10 in the Bois de

Robert and then relieved the 124th Machine Gun Battalion, which was at that time attached to the Forty-seventh Division.

Companies A and B occupied positions near Hénencourt, while Companies C and D held positions covering the territory between Buire-sur-l'Ancre and the Albert-Amiens road and looking directly into Albert, then held by the German forces. Battalion headquarters were established near Baizieux.

The battalion occupied these positions until the night of August 20-21, when its service with the British and Australians was terminated. It was relieved by the Eighteenth Battalion of the British Machine Gun Corps and proceeded to Molliens-au-Bois.

The service with the British forces had been interesting and instructive, attended as it was by active campaign experience with the best British soldiers and the wonderful fighting men from Australia. Considering the extent of the battalion's battle service during this period the casualties had been very light. No men had been killed and only twelve of all ranks had been wounded. Among the wounded, however, were Captain Albert C. Reynolds and First Lieutenant Robert F. Wilbur, both of Company D, efficient officers whose loss the battalion felt.

Two important changes in personnel occurred during the service with the British. Captain Bennett W. Bartlett succeeded Captain Beatty in command of Company A and Captain Kenneth A. Elmore became commander of Company B when Captain Wingerter was transferred to the Thirty-seventh Division.

At Molliens-au-Bois the battalion turned in all British equipment, and on the night of August 24-25 the journey to the American area began. The first stage was covered on foot, to Longeau and St. Roche, near Amiens. There the battalion entrained in two sections for Ligny. Another march and the men reached Nançois-le-Grand and went into billets. On August 29 the



THE TOWN OF BLERCOURT



#### ON DEAD MAN'S HILL

The entrance to the famous Bismarck Tunnel, which ran through the hill. The tunnel was about seven feet high and wide enough for four men abreast.

battalion moved to Velaines, where the American Vickers machine gun equipment was issued.

Five days were spent at Velaines. Then the entire Sixty-fifth Brigade was moved in French motor busses to the vicinity of Blercourt, whence the machine gunners marched to Jouy-en-Ar-gonne.

On the night of September 8-9 the Sixty-fifth Brigade took over the famous Hill 304 sector northwest of Verdun, relieving French soldiers. Companies A and B of the 123rd went into the line on the hill with the 129th Infantry. Company C was stationed at Anceréville Farm, and Company D was held in reserve at Béthelainville, where brigade and battalion headquarters had been established.

The several companies remained in these positions until the night of September 21, when Companies C and D were moved to the Bois de Sartelles. Two days later they moved again to the Bois de Ville, and from there they marched to Beaumont Farm to become part of the divisional reserve in the attack of September 26.

When the attack was launched Companies A and B remained in the line with the 129th Infantry until the attacking troops of the Fourth and Eightieth Divisions had passed through. Then they proceeded to the southern slope of Hill 281, south of Gercourt, and took up new positions.

Companies C and D had advanced meanwhile with the 130th Infantry, following the forward drive of the attacking waves. The afternoon of Sep-



A SHELL HOLE ON DEAD MAN'S HILL

tember 27 found them too on Hill 281, with the other companies of the battalion and the several units of the Sixty-fifth Brigade.

The next evening the entire brigade, with Companies A and B attached to the 129th and Companies C and D moving with the 130th, went to the Bois d'en Dela and bivouacked in preparation for relieving the Eightieth Division.



GERMAN OBSERVATION POST IN CERVAUX TRENCH

The relief was accomplished on the morning of September 29. Company B went into position with the 129th Infantry in the Bois de Dannevoux, Company C occupied positions in the Bois de la Côte Lémont with the 130th Infantry, and Companies A and D remained in the Bois d'en Dela and the Bois de Septsarges as brigade reserves.

The positions in the Bois de Dannevoux and the Bois de la Côte Lémont constituted a salient thrust into the enemy lines. They were subjected to an extremely heavy artillery fire, and the woods were constantly drenched with gas, for the enemy was making desperate efforts to hold up the American advance and recover, if possible, some of the ground he had lost.

Despite the violence of the Germans' attempts to regain the positions the salient was held. The machine gunners and the infantrymen with them made the positions secure and held them until the brigade was relieved nearly three weeks later.

Companies A and D, although in reserve, did not remain idle long. On



GERMAN STRONG-POINT ON HILL 281



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN L. HINES  
Commander of the Fourth Division.

pany of the 130th Infantry, opened up on the enemy positions. The Germans retaliated with heavy artillery and machine gun fire, aided by aerial bombardments, but the machine gunners maintained their fire until 11 o'clock, when firing on both sides died away. At 8:30 a. m. Companies A and D of the 124th Machine Gun Battalion reported to Major Culbertson, and were assigned to positions in the vicinity of Hill 280. Thus augmented, the machine gun force kept up heavy, harassing fire on the enemy positions in and about Briulles-sur-Meuse, north and northwest of Briulles, and on the Tranchée de Teton during October 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Germans kept up an equally severe fire.

By the morning of

the night of October 3 the battalion was ordered to put the two reserve companies and any other machine guns that might be available in position to neutralize enemy opposition, break up counterattacks between the Bois de Briulles, the Bois de Forêt, and Briulles-sur-Meuse, protect the left flank of the Thirty-third Division, and assist the Fourth Division on the left in an attack to be made at daybreak.

Positions were selected in the northwest edge of the Bois de la Côte Lémont and on Hill 280, and assigned to Company D. Captain George W. Bushong and the gunners of the company moved forward in the face of extraordinarily severe artillery fire and established themselves in the posts selected. Company A was held in readiness for any emergency.

At 5.25 a. m., the hour set for the attack by the Fourth Division, the guns of Company D, together with those of Company C and the machine gun com-



IN NO MAN'S LAND

An American observer one-half kilometer from Briulles.

October 7 the gunners of the 123rd had expended more than 750,000 rounds of ammunition, a fact which may indicate the fierceness with which they fought. The desired results had been won, and the two companies of the 124th Battalion were ordered back to their own command in Forges Wood. The men of the 123rd remained in position until October 10, when Companies A and D were directed to report to the commanding general of the Sixty-sixth Brigade near Consenvoye, on the east bank of the Meuse River.

The position held by the battalion having improved, Company B took over that part of the Bois de Dannevoux which had been held by the machine gun company of the 129th Infantry, and one platoon of Company C was with-



IN THE BOIS DE FORET

drawn to the main line of resistance, whither it was followed on the following night by the rest of the company.

On the night of October 13-14 battalion headquarters and Company C proceeded to the east bank of the Meuse, near Consenvoye, where Companies A and D had gone. Two nights later Company B was relieved by the company of the 124th Machine Gun Battalion and followed.

Meanwhile, Companies A and D, after they had crossed the Meuse on the night of October 10 and reported to the commanding general of the Sixty-sixth Brigade, were sent to assist the infantry in the fighting then in progress in the Bois de Chaume and the Bois du Plat Chêne. Upon the relief of the Sixty-sixth Brigade by the Sixty-fifth these companies were in line with elements of the 129th and 130th Infantry Regiments, which had preceded the



rest of the brigade to the east side of the Meuse and were busily engaged in driving back the enemy and in holding the ground already gained.

Company A was relieved by the machine gun company of the 130th Infantry on the night of October 18-19, and went into reserve just south of Consenvoye. Two nights later the entire brigade was relieved by the Fifteenth Colonial French Infantry Division, but Company D held its position twenty-four hours longer.

The whole brigade marched first to the Bois de Lolime and the Bois de Bourrus. Then battalion headquarters, with Companies B and C, went to Sommedieu with the 129th Infantry, while Company A moved to Rupt-en-Woëvre with the 130th, to be joined a day later by Company D.

Thus ended the part of the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion in the Meuse-Argonne campaign. It had been a period of strenuous service. The gunners had been under constant fire, and the woods in which they lived and fought had been drenched with gas of every conceivable variety. In addition to such difficulties, enemy planes had bombed the men of the battalion and sprayed them with machine gun bullets.

Under those adverse conditions, with insufficient rest, the men had maintained their positions at all times, had driven back and harassed the enemy, and had remained courageous, cheerful and alive to every opportunity. It had been a magnificent achievement. When the battalion entered the line for the engagement it had just finished a three-weeks tour of duty in the front line. Fatigued by that tour, it was called on to remain in action for nearly a month, under such a strain as men seldom are forced to undergo—a strain that would break any but the strongest and fittest. That the battalion did all



A SCENE IN THE TOWN OF BRIEULLES



A GERMAN OBSERVATION POST IN THE BOIS DE CHAUME

it was asked to do and emerged unbroken is a record of which any military organization might feel proud.

The battalion during its part of the Meuse-Argonne campaign lost fourteen killed and ninety-seven wounded, seven of whom afterward died. Many other men were so worn out physically that they had to be evacuated.

On the nights of October 24 and 25 the battalion relieved the 311th Machine Gun Battalion of the Seventy-ninth Division in the sub-sector Connecticut of the Troyon sector, a part of the old St. Mihiel salient. Companies B and C took up positions in the main line of resistance, while Companies A and D occupied positions in reserve.

The occupation of this sector was without remarkable incident until November 7, when Company D assisted elements of the 130th Infantry in carrying out a raid on the German positions at the Chateau and Ferme d'Aulnois. By putting down a box barrage, which cut off the



GERMAN DUGOUTS  
North of the Bois du Plat Chêne.

enemy's retreat and prevented reinforcements from reaching him and by keeping down his fire, the gunners contributed greatly to the success of the raid. Their work is more notable for the fact that they did it without the loss of a man. The achievement reflected great credit on First Lieutenant Ivan K. Foster, who commanded the company.

On the morning of November 10 Companies C and D assisted the 130th Infantry in an attack on a stronghold at Marchéville. As in the raid on the Chateau d'Aulnois, a barrage was put down to isolate the enemy, while fire was directed against neighboring strong-points to keep down the Germans' fire and mystify them as to the real point of attack. The work of the gunners was efficient and did much to make the operation successful.



RUINED HOMES IN MARCHEVILLE

The same companies assisted the 130th Infantry in an attack launched by the brigade on the morning of November 11, the day the Germans gave up the fight. Companies A and B, accompanying the 129th Infantry, also took part in this last operation. The assault was meeting with success, the German lines having been pierced at Riaville, Pintheville, Marchéville and other points, when news of the signing of the armistice put a sudden stop to the fighting.

The several companies were ordered to return to the positions from which the attack had been launched. There they remained for several days, until the battalion was assembled in Génicourt to prepare for the march into the zone of occupation.

Every known variety of weather, with an abundance of the bad varieties, marked the journey to the Rhine. The march ended, after twelve days of hiking, in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, where the battalion established



SEDAN, ONE OF THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES OF THE AMERICANS IN FRANCE

itself for the winter. Headquarters and Companies A and B were quartered at Erpeldange. Companies C and D found billets at Burden and Ingledorff respectively. There they remained until April 26, when the homeward journey began.

The battalion sailed from Brest on the Siboney on May 11. Nine days later the transport reached Hoboken. After a few days at Camp Mills the unit moved to Chicago to take part in a welcome celebration there, and then went to Camp Grant to be mustered out. By May 30 the officers and men had been discharged, and the record of the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion had been closed.



U. S. S. SIBONEY, WHICH CARRIED THE 123RD HOME

MEN OF THE 123RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION,  
DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Sergeant*

Robert H. Vogt

*Corporals*

Godfrey Bishoff

Glen Fultz

Wilbur Greening

*Privates, First Class*

Ben Burda

Frank E. Carey

Cecil M. Cunningham

Edward J. Geary

Herman C. Klopp

Frank M. Sherrill

Barney M. Warden

*Privates*

Fred Boyle

Alfred P. Chappell

Arthur H. Erickson

John H. Erlandson

Allen M. Franklin

John F. Gallagher

Gust Gilbertson

John Goodwin

Samuel E. Halpert

William G. Hinkins

Joseph E. Moore

Dore Mulvaney

Philip Sandler

William M. Simpson

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 123RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION WHO WERE CITED  
FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

*Major*

Albert L. Culbertson

*First Lieutenants*

Francis D. Ballentine

George F. Cunneane

Ivan K. Foster

Roy G. Messner

Lawrence D. Smith

*Second Lieutenants*

Donald G. Best

John E. Huguelet

Arthur A. Reese

*First Sergeant*

Jewel C. Chambers

Hugh F. Dahner

Lawrence A. Perkins

*Sergeants*

Wm. A. Baldwin

Elmer Benson

Paul E. Briggs

Lenuel S. Brubaker

Harry E. Camfield

Roy R. Comrie

Gilbert Cooper

Leslie Cunningham

Herschel H. Dodd

James W. Dorsey

Herman S. Fisher

Ebeb J. Green

Frank P. Grotty

Richard H. Gurley

Robert J. Hartley

Kirby L. Hill

Samuel E. Israel

Henry E. Kemma

Albert O. Merkel

Walter Mullmeyer

Henry Paul

Russel Shaver

Lafayette F. Snapp

Russell D. Staples

Frederick T. Thompson

Arthur Wright

Donald M. Wright

*Corporals*

Seth L. Barber

Emery W. Ewing

George J. Garrigus

Delbert S. Halverson

John O. Haug

Herman F. Jessen

Eugene Lewin

Leo E. Mack

Ernest Nelson

Wm. B. Smith

Arlie T. Williams

*Wagoners*

Albert D. Clinton

Everett Hall

Floyd H. Hall

Frank Schach

Lewis S. Suffern

Porter Williams

*Bugler*

Harry M. Salyer



## OFFICERS OF THE 123RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Top row: Captains B. W. Bartlett, James P. Beatty, P. R. Blodgett, G. W. Bushong.

Second row: Captains Kenneth Elmore, Jeremiah McQuade, A. C. Reynolds, E. L. Wingerter.

Third row: First Lieutenants Francis Ballentine, G. F. Cunnane, George F. Flood, Carl Grimmer.

Bottom row: First Lieutenants Harry Meador, Roy G. Messner, Arthur Shumate, L. D. Smith.

*Privates First Class*

John R. Allen  
 Barney J. Andrews  
 Isaac N. Biggs  
 John Borgia  
 Charles C. Clotfelter  
 Dempster Davis  
 Wm. D. Grimes  
 Claude C. Haeefe  
 Wm. H. Hasberger  
 John G. Heilig  
 Luston E. Hough  
 Wallace D. Johnson  
 John J. Maden  
 Ernest A. Muenchow  
 Paul Pittges  
 Julius W. Popp  
 Frank B. Schauer  
 Charles R. Smith  
 Oscar B. Sobel  
 James L. Thiele

Glenn Vaughn  
 Edward D. Vertrees  
 Waldo S. Walker  
 James Walsh  
 Elmer Wendell  
 Joseph K. Whitmorel

*Privates*

Rene Delaere  
 Michael J. Deis  
 Lloyd Hubler  
 Rage L. Johnson  
 Charles J. Jorack  
 Wm. J. Joyce  
 James C. Kizer  
 Harold Masur  
 Raymond M. Murray  
 John A. Navadunski  
 Fred Rosenbom  
 August T. Runowski  
 Stanley Shields

CERTIFICATE FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS AND CONSPICUOUS SERVICE WAS  
 AWARDED BY GENERAL PERSHING TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICER

*Major*

Albert L. Culbertson

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS 123RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION

*Major*

Albert L. Culbertson

*Captains*

Bennett W. Bartlett  
 James P. Beatty  
 Pliny R. Blodgett, M. C.  
 George W. Bushong  
 Kenneth A. Elmore  
 Jeremiah McQuade (later Major)  
 Fritz Pierson, D. C.  
 Albert C. Reynolds  
 Ernest L. Wingerter

*First Lieutenants*

Francis D. Ballentine  
 Edward C. Castle  
 George F. Cunneane  
 Fred Dierstein  
 Joseph A. S. Ehart (later Captain 108th  
 T. H. and M. P.)  
 George F. Flood  
 Ivan K. Foster (later Captain 120th In-  
 fantry)  
 Carl Grimmer  
 Frederick J. Jones  
 Harry E. Meador

*Roy G. Messner*

William C. Peake  
 Arthur Shumate  
 Lawrence D. Smith (later Captain 108th  
 T. H. and M. P.)  
 Henry H. Spillyards  
 Robert F. Wilbur

*Second Lieutenants*

Donald G. Best  
 Lloyd L. Bucher  
 Horace W. Day  
 George S. Hawthorne  
 Lynn Houghtaling  
 John E. Huguelet  
 James E. Johnston  
 Edwin W. Lesley  
 William J. Linn  
 Alvin W. Michel  
 John H. Pott, Jr.  
 Victor H. Ray  
 Arthur A. Reese  
 Leo P. Sanregret  
 Harold S. Silvernale  
 Ray B. Sinnock  
 Paul K. Thomas  
 Roger H. Wells



## SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 123RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Top row: Henry H. Spillyards (first lieutenant), Donald G. Best, Lloyd L. Bucher, Horace W. Day.

Second row: George S. Hawthorne, Lynn Houghtaling, John E. Huguelet, E. W. Lesley.

Third row: A. W. Michel, V. H. Ray, Arthur A. Reese, Leo P. Sanregret.

Bottom row: H. S. Silvernale, Ray B. Sinnock, Paul K. Thomas, Roger H. Wells.





**BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY D. TODD, JR.**  
Commanding the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade.



THE BALDNESS OF MONT SEC

## The Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade

BY BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY D. TODD, JR., COMMANDING,

AND

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE ROTH, CHIEF OF STAFF AND ADJUTANT



THE Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, Thirty-third Division, was organized at Camp Logan during the months of September and October, 1917.

The brigade consisted of two regiments of light artillery, one regiment of heavy artillery, an ammunition train, a trench mortar battery and an ordnance repair shop. These units were formed from Illinois National Guard organizations as follows:

The 122nd Field Artillery (light) from the First Illinois Cavalry, Colonel Milton J. Foreman commanding; the 123rd Field Artillery (heavy) from the Sixth Illinois Infantry, Colonel Charles G. Davis commanding; the 124th Field Artillery (light) built around three troops of the First Illinois Cavalry, Colonel Horatio B. Hackett commanding; the 108th Ammunition Train, from units of the Seventh Illinois Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Fisher commanding; the 108th Trench Mortar Battery (6-inch Stokes guns) from the machine gun company of the Sixth Illinois Infantry, Captain Charles J. Kraft commanding; and the 108th Ordnance Repair Shop, a new organization, Captain George H. Lawrence commanding.



GENERAL TODD AND COLONEL FOREMAN

such splendid condition that it was judged fit and ready for European service. Sailing orders were issued in May. The artillery brigade proceeded to Hoboken, N. J., sailing from that port during the latter part of the month.

The crossing was accomplished without incident. The brigade debarked at Liverpool, crossed England and reached Havre, France, on June 11 and 12. A week later most of the units had established themselves in the Ornans-Valdahon training area, near the Swiss border, for final intensive instruction in combat methods.

Before this training could be undertaken, however, it was necessary for the brigade to obtain equipment. Guns, horses, harness, trucks and all other supplies had been left in the United States and had to be replaced.

The task was a difficult one, falling entirely on the headquarters staff. The staff displayed such untiring energy, however, that in a short time the brigade had been completely equipped for field service, except for a shortage of trucks in the ammunition train.

Then came a grind of training. For two months officers and men

The training process which the brigade underwent was long and severe. Much of the equipment was late in arriving, and many of the officers, trained for other arms of the service, found it difficult and sometimes impossible to acquire the needed technical knowledge. All ranks displayed excellent spirit and energy, however, and the assistance of several regular army artillery officers and one French artillery officer enabled the brigade and regimental commanders to make progress which the War Department found satisfactory.

Seven months of intensive training put the Thirty-third Division in



A FRIENDLY CONFERENCE AT CAMP LOGAN  
General Todd, General Naylor, Colonel C. C. Allen and  
General Bell.



THE HARBOR OF HAVRE AS SEEN FROM AN AIRPLANE

Where the brigade first touched French soil.

were put through an intensive course of instruction under the direction of officers from the front. It was not until the middle of August that the high command deemed the brigade fitted, in skill and discipline, to meet the enemy. The fact that this extra training was necessary after seven months of drill at home constitutes a striking argument against the policy of waiting for the declaration of war before organizing and preparing an army.

Between the formal training of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade at Valdahon and its first real battle, the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, a period of three weeks was spent in learning the real business of war, in the first sector held by American troops—a sector northwest of Toul and extending from Beaumont to Bouconville. The non-motorized organizations entrained at Valdahon and Besançon, August 21 and 22 and detrained at Foug and Pagny-sur-Meuse, August 24 and 25. The motorized organizations traveled overland to the same towns. The entire brigade then marched into the Forêt de la Reine, where it was to remain hidden until the big attack of September 12. The brigade post of command was established in Boucq. In this sector the brigade became accustomed to gas attacks and to the hardships of traffic jams on the roads during the night, when all the motor as well as the horse-drawn vehicles traveled without showing lights and without sounding klaxons. The men learned also how to work in daytime so that Ger-



ON THE BANKS OF THE LOVELY LOUE

At Pontarlier, where units of the brigade were stationed during the training period.

man aerial observers could find nothing worth reporting to the German information service and no targets for German machine gun fire.

On August 26, supporting the Eighty-ninth Division, in the Fourth American Army Corps, the first battalion of the 122nd Field Artillery, Major Frank R. Schwenkel commanding, took over the defense of the sector from a battalion of the 321st Field Artillery. Battery C took position south of Rambucourt. Battery B and Battery A went into position in le Joli Bois, southeast of Raulecourt. Cannoneers from Battery B, under command of First Lieutenant Os-

car N. Schjerven, took over one platoon of 90 mm. guns and a like group of men from Battery A, under command of First Lieutenant John W. McCarthy, took over another platoon of 90 mm. guns, both gun positions being in the northern end of the Forêt de la Reine, southeast of Rambucourt. On September 3 the two platoons joined at the Schjerven position. The guns were fired for registration, and, during several days prior to the infantry assault, they dealt harassing fire on roads and trenches, also shelling the crossroads at Lahayville. Battery C, Captain Robert E. Myhrman commanding, made an adjustment of fire from Observation Post No. 21 in Rambucourt. The battery delivered counter-offensive preparation fire and harassing fire daily on roads and trench crossings, made an adjustment of fire with airplane observation on the crossroads in Richécourt, and at all other times was ready to shield the infantry with a defensive barrage. In delivering this fire, all the gun squads of the battalion served at the pieces. On September 4 a few positions of the 122nd Field Artillery and 123rd Field Artillery were heavily shelled and two men of the 123rd Field Artillery were killed. All the regiments of the brigade were quietly digging gun pits under the camouflage in preparation for the attack, and, aided by the 108th Ammunition Train, were hauling ammunition to these new positions.

When the allied high command determined to reduce the German salient at St. Mihiel, it chose for that task the Fifth American Army Corps, the Second French Colonial Army Corps, the Fourth American Army Corps and the First American Army Corps, forming the First American Army. The Fifth Corps on the west of the "V" was to push forcefully over the hilly ground east of Les Eparges, the Fourth Corps on the south of the "V" was to make a thrust northward from Beaumont, the First Corps was to swing the attack on its hinge at Pont-a-Mousson, and the Second Colonial Army Corps was to mop up the heights at the tip of the salient and to take the town of St. Mihiel.

The Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, supporting the First Division, was at the far left of the Fourth Corps sector, a sector in which an attack was very difficult. From the forest of Apremont on the west, where the lines passed over the wooded hills of Le Mont, all the dominating heights were in the hands of the enemy. But the ambition of the American army increased even the natural difficulties. We desired not only to capture the ground of the St. Mihiel salient but to take a great number of German soldiers



GENERAL TODD'S HEADQUARTERS AT BOUCQ

Formerly used as General Pershing's headquarters in the St. Mihiel sector.



THE BRIDGE OVER THE RUPT DE MAD  
Between Richecourt and Xivray-Marvoisin.

as well. To accomplish this result the attack of the Second Colonial Army Corps was held back until one hour after the two American Corps on its flanks had gone forward and it was to proceed at a slower rate of advance. Thus, not only were the enemy observatories able at the outset to see the American assaults, but for several hours they were to suffer no threat of attack. To blind and destroy

these lines and thoroughly to defend our exposed left flank, and, at the same time, to give our attacking infantry thorough and effective aid, required not only a great massing of guns, but a complicated and skillful plan of attack as well.

The divisional artillery of the First Division, under command of General Todd, was made up of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade; the First Field Artillery Brigade, Colonel Butner commanding; the Seventy-sixth Regiment, Field Artillery; the Forty-fourth Regiment, Coast Artillery Corps; and a regiment of French artillery; and was formed into five groupings. The Davis grouping consisted of one battalion of the Forty-fourth Regiment, Coast Artillery Corps (8-inch howitzers), and the second battalion of the 123rd Field Artillery (155 mm. howitzers). The Kennedy grouping con-



A BATTERY OF 75's NEAR BEAUMONT

sisted of the Fifth Field Artillery. These two groupings of heavy guns were charged with the demolition of known strong-points and of observatories. In the preliminary bombardment the 155 mm. guns also were entrusted with the duty of delivering enfilade fire on the important boyaux, and the 8-inch guns with the task of delivering fire on the chief trenches.

The two groupings of direct support—the Butner grouping, consisting of the Sixth and Seventh Field Artillery Regiments, and the Rivers grouping, consisting of the Seventy-sixth Field Artillery and 122nd Field Artillery—were given the mission of cutting wire and firing the rolling barrage behind which the infantry was to advance. Because of the trouble expected to be met in crossing the Rupt de Mad and other difficult places, and because of the continuance of German observation from the western range of hills, a large proportion of smoke shells was to be used in the firing.

Depth in the barrage was to be assured by having one battalion of each grouping fire 200 meters beyond the line on which the other battalions were firing.

The Hackett grouping, consisting of the 124th Field Artillery and the second battalion of the 123rd Field Artillery, was to enfilade certain German trenches in the Richecourt sector, supply a rolling barrage on the western edge of the sector, blind and destroy the observation posts on Mont Sec and shield the left flank of the division from an expected counterattack from the west.

To perform these missions, the gun positions were very carefully chosen. The Hackett grouping was placed, roughly speaking, west of Bouconville; the Rivers grouping between Bouconville and Rambucourt, the Butner grouping between Rambucourt and Beaumont. The Kennedy grouping was placed behind Rambucourt and the Davis grouping was behind Beaumont and Bouconville. The reconnaissance of these positions, the digging of gun pits and the stocking of the positions with two and one-half days' fire allowance of ammunition are much easier to relate than they were to accomplish. The fine weather, the clear air and the nearness

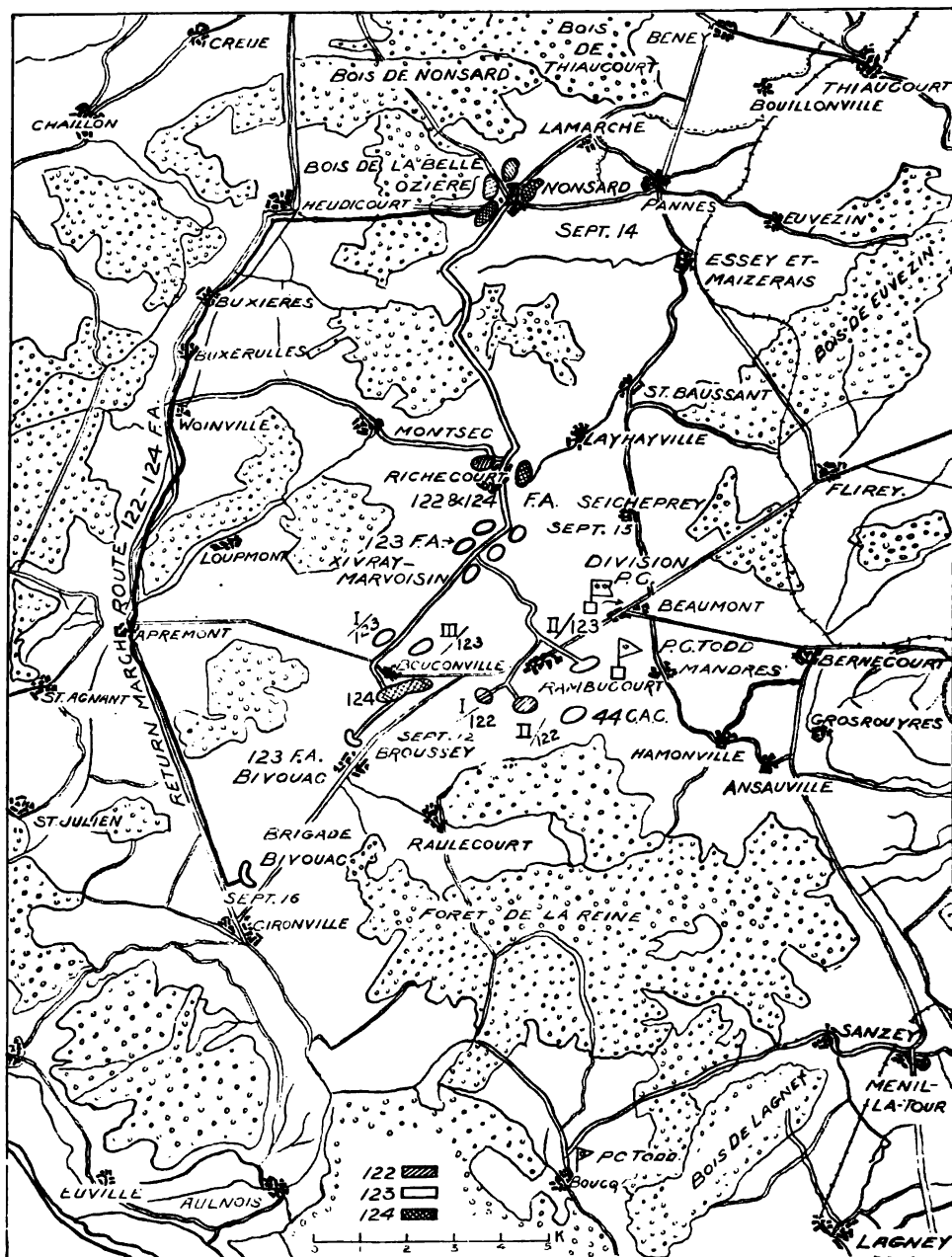


GENERAL TODD AND COLONEL DAVIS



THE SIXTEENTH INFANTRY, FIRST DIVISION, ADVANCING NEAR ST. BAUSSANT





## CUTTING THE SAINT MIHIEL SALIENT

Showing the advances made by the Fifty-eighth Artillery Brigade.



#### AIR VIEW OF BEAUMONT

Showing the famous Dead Man's Curve, where the 26th Division had sharp fighting in the spring of 1918.

of the German observation posts made it necessary to do all work by night. But even night work was hard to do. Flares dropped by hostile aircraft and rockets sent up from the enemy lines cast intermittent floods of light on fields and roads. To avoid undue traffic congestion the circulation of vehicles took a counter-clockwise direction, from the dump in the Forêt de la Reine, to Beaumont, Rambucourt, Bouconville, Broussey, and back again to the Forêt de la Reine. On the nights of September 8, 9, 10 and 11, the guns were drawn from the echeloned positions into the previously prepared gun positions, and on the 11th the brigade post of command was moved to Beaumont.

At 1 o'clock on the morning of September 12 the preliminary bombardment of four hours began. This bombardment, which included a large proportion of gas shells, was continuous and fierce. The enemy was so unnerved by the preliminary bombardment and so confused by the deadly and



**MAJOR GENERAL SUMMERALL**

Commander of the First Division from July 18 to October 11, thereafter commander of the Fifth Army Corps.

still threatened attack from the west, until all the organizations, with caissons and wagons full of ammunition, reached Nonsard—a total advance of more than eleven kilometers over obstructed and shell-ruined roads. The disorganization of the German resistance in itself was proof of the excellence of our artillery fire, but General Summerall, commanding the First Division, reputed to be one of the best divisions in the army, made official record of the brigade's accomplishments.

On September 14 Lieutenant Colonel Campbell King, chief of staff of the First Division, sent the following letter to General Todd:

"The division commander desires me to express to you and all of the officers and men of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade his commendation of your

obscuring barrage fire that our troops met with but scattered and futile resistance. The observation posts on Mont Sec were partly obscured by smoke and their telephone lines were cut. Our men reached their objectives on scheduled time, and on the second day of the attack the Twenty-sixth Division of the Fifth Corps, which had advanced eastward from Les Eparges, met the First Division near Vigneulles-les-Hattonchâtel.

The battle had been won. Thousands of prisoners had been taken. The salient had been demolished. The expected counterattack never came, and the regiments had no further occasion to fire. All the spectacular action was at an end, but a lot of precautionary work had still to be done and this was exacting and exhausting business. From September 12 to 14 the artillery regiments, moving in echelon, successively took up advanced positions to guard against the



**THE AMERICANS IN MONT SEC VILLE**



#### NONSARD GETS A NEW STREET

The building at the right was used by General Todd as headquarters.

gallant conduct in the recent operations against the St. Mihiel salient. The loyalty and devotion exhibited in moving forward your batteries over the most difficult country under the worst weather conditions are worthy of the best traditions of the field artillery. The skill and efficiency with which the guns were served are evidences of the high standard that obtains in the brigade."

General Summerall also cited each of the three regiments in General Orders No. 58, September 19, 1918:

"For great devotion to duty and efficiency in advancing over muddy and difficult roads under the worst weather conditions and rendering at all times invaluable support to the attacking infantry in the advance of September 12-13, 1918."

The importance of the battle in which the brigade took such a brilliant part is shown in the following telegram, sent by General Pershing to Major General Dickman, commanding the Fourth American Army Corps:

"Please accept my sincere congratulations on the successful and important part taken by the officers and men of the Fourth Corps in the first offensive of the First American Army, on September 12 and 13. The courageous dash and vigor of our troops has thrilled our countrymen and evoked



NONSARD AS SEEN FROM THE AIR ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1918

the enthusiasm of our allies. Please convey to your command my heartfelt appreciation of their splendid work. I am proud of you all."

The junction of the Twenty-sixth Division and the First Division resulted in the withdrawal of the First Division from the line. It was ordered to the Bois de la Belle Oxière for rest, reorganization and re-equipment and along with it was to go its divisional artillery. The artillery organizations were in great need of rest. For three weeks they had been camped in the wet woods, subjected to gas and bombing attacks, and in the latter part of that period men and animals had become well tired out; the cannoneers from digging gun emplacements, the drivers and horses from hauling am-

munition. Besides this, they had had the added fatigue of the attack and subsequent frequent changes of position.

Before the regiments began to move, however, an order came detaching the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade from the First Division and ordering it to report to the Second French Army. So instead of obtaining the much-needed rest the brigade was to go immediately from St. Mihiel to the Argonne, passing through one of its most exacting experiences in the war, a period of long and tedious night marches and of day encampments in the wet woods.

The organizations marched from Nonsard to the woods near Broussey on September 14; on the 15th they marched via Gironville, Mécrin and Kœur le Petit to woods near Kœur le Grand; on the 16th they moved to Pierrefitte and towns nearby—Belrain, Nicey and Villotte; on the 17th and 18th, going by way of Beuzée, Deuxnouds, Seraucourt, Fleury and Froidos, they moved into the woods west of Autrecourt. On the 21st they finally reached the Bois de Parois. The total distance covered in the week was 104 kilometers.

The First American Army, in the Meuse-Argonne campaign, made three distinct efforts to pierce the German lines north of Verdun. The first, lasting from September 26 to October 4, and the second, from October 4 to October 31, constituted a slow, creeping fight of great ferocity. The Ger-



THE END OF THE ST. MIHIEL SALIENT

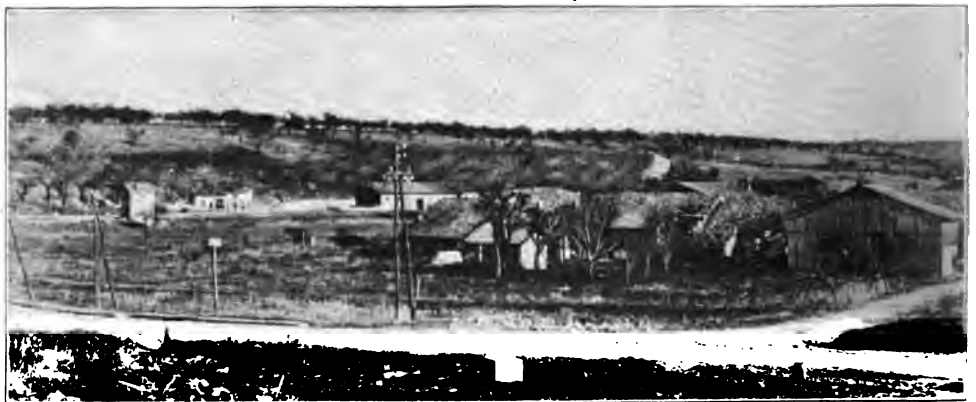
A street scene in Vigneulles, showing the effects of American shell-fire. It was at Vigneulles that the First Division, advancing from the south, met the Twenty-sixth Division, advancing from the west, thus eliminating the salient.



THE BRIDGE AT PAROIS

mans were driven back from the organized defenses of their trench system to partly organized but very effective natural defenses. Range on range of steep wooded hills and ravine after ravine easily lent themselves to the machine gun defense of the enemy. The third phase of the drive, beginning November 1, was the mighty thrust which broke down the German organization, and cut the Metz-Mézières Railroad, one of the two main lines of supply of the German army. The Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade believes it was the first organization to fire on the Metz-Mézières Railroad, which it attacked November 5.

Roughly, the American sector was divided as follows: The First Corps attacked in the Aire Valley and the Fifth and Third Corps in the west and



THE CROSSROADS AT PAROIS

Parois was one of the towns through which units of the brigade passed on their way into the Argonne.

east parts of the Grand Couronne. The Ninety-first Division, supported by the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, was the left division of the Fifth Corps, with the Thirty-seventh and Seventy-ninth Divisions on its right and the Thirty-fifth Division of the First Corps on its left.

Opposite the Ninety-first Division, the Germans' supply lines ran down deep ravines, perpendicular to the front; cover was afforded their artillery by successive ranges of wooded hills; their machine guns could enfilade all approaches. In some places they had organized these natural defenses with barbed wire and shallow trenches, as in the *Kriemhilde* and *Freya Stellungen*. The experienced German Army Staff took advantage of every inch of this difficult terrain and organized an admirable defense, depending upon isolated machine guns and artillery of all calibres.

On the other hand, the American lines of supply were never particularly good, and during the advance their condition became steadily worse. Our troops, in advancing, were often in full view of the concealed German machine gunners and artillery observers. Our artillery advanced over the worst possible roads and only by superhuman efforts was it able to keep up with our attacking infantry. Our forces were under another disadvantage; they were operating in this sector for the first time.

The divisional artillery of the Ninety-first Division, General Todd commanding, was organized in four groupings. The trench mortar grouping, under command of Captain C. J. Kraft, consisted of the 108th Trench Mortar Battery, the 308th Trench Mortar Battery and the Seventeenth and Twentieth Batteries of the 176th Regiment of



GERMAN FIRST LINE TRENCH AND PILL BOX  
Destroyed by a direct hit on September 26.



ON THE ROAD FROM AVOCOURT TO VERY



General Todd received instructions for the attack from the corps commander, Major General Cameron, and from the corps artillery commander, Major General Alexandre, on September 19, at the Fifth Corps Headquarters in Ville-sur-Cousances. On September 20 battery positions were reconnoitered and on the 21st the delivery of ammunition to the battery positions commenced. Because of the scarcity of trucks and the exhausted condition of the horses the delivery of ammunition was one of the most serious problems faced. Great credit should be given to Lieutenant Colonel Fisher of the 108th Ammunition Train, Lieutenant Julien of General Alexandre's staff and First Lieutenant A. G. Ford of the brigade staff, as well as to the

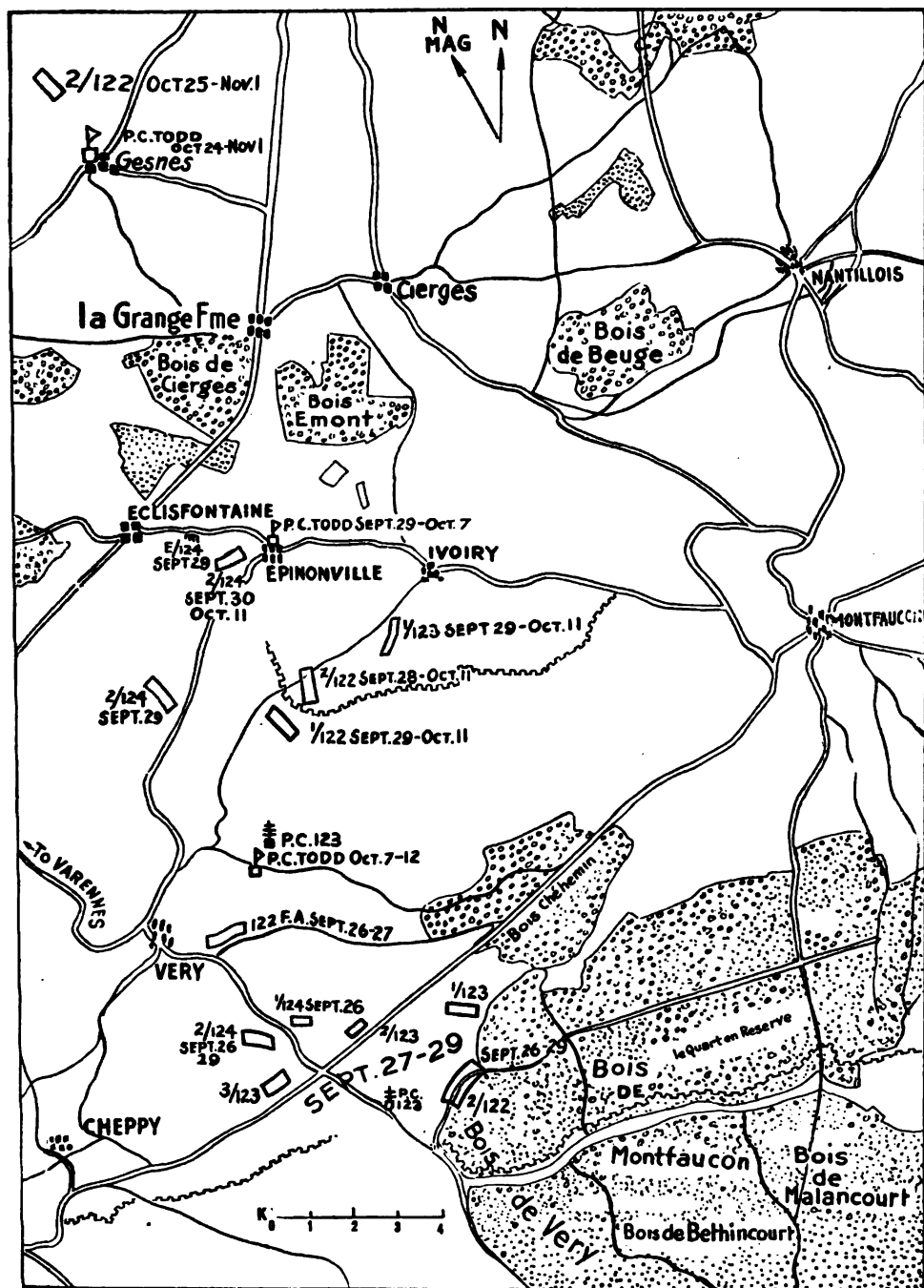


NO MAN'S LAND NEAR THE BOIS DE CHEPPY  
Showing havoc wrought by the American barrage of September 26.

personnel of the brigade for putting the complete allowance of ammunition in place in such a short time. On September 21 and 22 the first battalion of the 124th Field Artillery took over the defense of the sector from the French. On the 23rd the brigade post of command was moved to Bertramé Ferme and on the 24th the division plan of attack was received.

The preliminary bombardment commenced at 2:30 a. m., September 26, and continued until 5:30 with an intermission of five minutes, from 4:15 to 4:20, to permit the sound-ranging section to locate active German batteries. From 4:20 to 4:30 German positions were gassed. At 5:30 the infantry attacked.

The day's objective for the division was the heights northwest of Gesnes. This meant an advance of fourteen kilometers over the most difficult sort of ground and beyond the fire of the divisional artillery. The troops did



## IN THE ARGONNE

Showing the territory covered by the advance of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade in the first and second phases.

not reach this objective. The heights were not captured until October 15. But even if the division did fail to reach its goal, it fought well. It advanced six kilometers, through the dense woods of Cheppy to the ridge northwest of Véry, after breaking through barrier after barrier of wire entanglements, and stamping out innumerable machine gun nests.

The advance of the infantry was remarkable, but that of the artillery was more so. It was to be expected that the infantry attack would succeed as long as the artillery kept it in range. The artillery's successful effort promptly to increase its range by moving forward was the outstanding feature of the attack. Before dusk of the first day, three battalions of 75 mm. guns, with full supplies of ammunition, had passed over a road pro-



TYPICAL THICKET NEAR VÉRY

Through which the Americans advanced; on Hill 242.

nounced impassable—the road through Avocourt—had gone into position from one-half to one and one-half kilometers behind the infantry outpost lines; had oriented their guns, and had laid them for fire. The next day the remaining battalion of the 124th Field Artillery and the 123rd Field Artillery with its attached French battalion moved into the same neighborhood, two kilometers southeast of Véry. Here the regiments fired upon all obstacles to the infantry advance—upon machine gun nests, upon enemy batteries and upon concentration of enemy troops. On September 29 Colonel Horatio B. Hackett, commanding the 124th Field Artillery, while gallantly directing his regiment under heavy fire, was seriously wounded by shell splinters and was removed to the hospital.

By September 29 the infantry advance had warranted the further displacement of the regiments northward. The second battalion of the 124th



#### THE VERY CROSSROADS

Used as Ninety-first Division post of command from September 26 to 28; about one-half kilometer southeast of Véry.

Field Artillery moved to a position one-half kilometer west of Epinonville and the rest of the brigade moved to positions between Véry and Epinonville. The 123rd Field Artillery occupied positions just off the road connecting these towns. The second battalion of the 124th Field Artillery was in position west of the road and all the positions of the 122nd Field Artillery were east of the road. Here the brigade remained until October 11 and 12, when it was withdrawn for rest and re-equipment. The infantry supported by the brigade was making slow progress. This was not due to any fault of the infantry or to the lack of artillery support. At one time the left divisional flank was exposed for a kilometer and a half, and only the strength and quickness of a heavy defensive barrage saved our infantry from en-



#### IN THE TOWN OF VERY



BRIGADE P. C. NEAR EPINONVILLE  
General Todd's headquarters on September 28, 1918.

circlement. Again, on September 30, behind a rolling barrage by the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, the 181st Infantry Brigade advanced and took Gesnes. The exposure of the flanks again menaced and our troops had to retire.

On October 4 the Ninety-first Division Infantry was relieved by the Thirty-second Division,

to which the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade was then attached. The following extract from a letter from Major General George H. Cameron, the corps commander, gives the reasons for the relief of the Ninety-first:

"Under orders from First Army, the Ninety-first Division will be relieved from the front line tonight and placed in corps reserve.

"The corps commander wishes you to understand that this relief results solely from a realization by higher command that your division has done its full share in the recent success, and is entitled to a rest for reorganization. This especially, as during the past three days it has incurred heavy casualties when circumstances would not permit either advance or withdrawal.

"At a time when the divisions on its flank were faltering and even falling back, the Ninety-first pushed ahead and steadfastly clung to every yard gained.



LOOKING TOWARD ECLISFONTAINE FROM EPINONVILLE

"In its initial performance, your division has established itself firmly on the list of the commander-in-chief's reliable fighting units. Please extend to your officers and men my appreciation of their splendid behavior and my hearty congratulations on the brilliant record they have made."

The Thirty-second Division continued to attack daily and the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade continued to render assistance. At this time the second great German defensive system was pierced. The world-renowned *Kriemhilde Stellung*, which straddled the precipitous wooded slopes north of Gesnes fell before our troops after a bitter fight.

Throughout the whole period, the artillery liaison officers with the infantry units always displayed bold initiative and a fine courage. Because of their effective service, immediate and effective fire was brought to bear upon all the obstacles hindering our infantry advance. Deserving of special



THE VIEW EAST FROM EPINONVILLE

The crest of Montfaucon rises beyond the town of Ivoiry.

mention in this respect is the work of First Lieutenant Latimer Johns of the 122nd Field Artillery. Lieutenant Johns directed the supporting fire of his regiment for the attacking infantry from the initial assault of September 26 until his death. And during all the trying days he displayed an intrepidity which belongs only to the bravest of men. He was killed by shell fire on September 30 at Gesnes.

The high favor in which our artillery was held may be judged by two letters to General Todd from the Thirty-second Division infantry brigade commanders, one from Brigadier General E. B. Winans and the other from Brigadier General Frank McCoy. General Winans wrote:

"I desire to express my utmost satisfaction with the artillery support by your Fifty-eighth Artillery Brigade in connection with the successful attack and capture by the Sixty-fourth Infantry Brigade of the Bois de la Morine, the Bois du Chêne Sec, and the town of Gesnes. In this operation the bar-



A POSITION OF THE ENEMY'S GREAT GUNS

At Eclisfontaine, which the Germans held until the attack of September 26, 1918.

rage was precise and exactly timed, the destructive and the counter-battery fire effective, and the fire on fleeting targets prompt and accurate. The efficient liaison established by your liaison officers, Lieutenants Shields and Hunter, is deserving of high commendation. It will no doubt gratify you to know that not a single report of friendly "shorts" was received during this operation."

In his letter to General Todd, General McCoy said: "During the first few days of the operation of my brigade against the *Kriemhilde Stellung* in front of Romagne, I had the very effective support of your brigade of field artillery, and I wish to express my appreciation to both yourself and your colonels. I was keenly conscious of this support, not only when asked, but of the quick and fine initiative of yourself and staff, which made it a pleasure and satisfaction to work together."

Two defensive systems had been crushed. The third was to fall later. Its reduction constituted the third phase of the Argonne offensive.

The brigade had been working to the point of exhaustion. So, October 11, when the infantry advanced beyond the range of our guns the brigade was relieved from line duty and was sent to the area in and near Ville-sur-Cousances, for refitting. So great had been the losses of horses that the journey was made in easy stages. Brigade headquarters and the 123rd Field Artillery went to Ville-sur-Cousances; the 122nd Field Artillery to Jubécourt, the 124th Field Artillery to Brocourt, the 108th Ammunition Train to Brabant and the 108th Trench Mortar Battery to Vraincourt.

After an inspection on October 17 by Major General McNair, and according to instructions from the First Army headquarters, the 123rd Field Artillery turned over to the 122nd Field Artillery and to the 124th Field

Artillery its rolling stock and animals. On the 22nd it began to move to the training area at Doulaincourt, where it was motorized. By this transaction the two light regiments became well horsed.

On October 23 the brigade was joined by the Eleventh Field Artillery (155 mm. motorized) Colonel W. G. Peace, commanding. The brigade then went back into the line, returning to a familiar sector—the area north of Gesnes. It was still in the Fifth Army Corps, but this time in support of the Eighty-ninth Division. The brigade post of command was established in Gesnes, the town where Lieutenant Johns had been killed. This town had been abandoned and subsequently had been retaken by the Thirty-second Division supported by the Fifty-eighth Brigade. North of Gesnes and northwest of Romagne the artillery regiments were placed in the well defiladed wooded valleys of the great *Kriemhilde Stellung*. The enemy had organized the



ON A WALL IN GESNES

A German war loan poster, designed to stimulate feeling against Great Britain.



IN THE STREETS OF GESNES

Gesnes was one of the objectives of the 58th Field Artillery Brigade in the Meuse-Argonne drive





AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE HILL NORTH OF GESNES  
The scene of heavy American casualties.

Bois de Hazois and La Dhuy Ferme as strong-points of first resistance. Behind towered the formidable heights of Barricourt, thickly wooded and bristling with enemy batteries.

The regiments moved into position on the night of October 25 and from that time till November 1 engaged in harassing, interdiction and counter-battery fire. The chief targets for harassing and interdiction fire were the woods of Hazois, L'Epasse and Andevanne; for harassing fire only, the farms of La Bergerie, La Dhuy, and La Tuilerie and the town of Rémonville; for interdiction fire the road crossings between Banthéville and Rémonville. During this period the information reports of Lieutenant K. K. Richardson of the 122nd Field Artillery were of great value not alone to the brigade, but to the army corps as well.

On October 30 General Todd, accompanied by Brigadier General Edward A. Miller, with General Todd's aid, Lieutenant Leon Dessez, and Lieutenant Colonel Frank R. Schwengel of the 122nd Field Artillery, made a personal reconnaissance of the roads and bridges which were to be used in the expected advance. The party went beyond the infantry outpost line in the

western edge of the Bois de Banthéville and was immediately the target of enemy shell fire. A shell splinter wounded General Todd in the face. Although weak from loss of blood he continued his reconnaissance and upon returning to his post of command issued to the regimental commanders the instructions based on his reconnaissance. He refused to allow himself to be sent to the hospital until the brigade was about to move forward on November 1.

The artillery concentration for the offensive of November 1 was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, massing of guns of the war. The entire Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Brigades and the 203rd French Regiment comprised the divisional artillery of the Eighty-ninth Division. Besides, there was located in the sector a great number of guns of the corps and army artillery. In the divisional area, two kilometers wide, there were, along with some large calibre railway guns, thirty-two batteries of 75 mm. rifles, nine batteries of 105 mm. rifles, twenty-one batteries of 155 mm. howitzers, six batteries of 155 mm. Schneider rifles, six batteries of 155 mm. G. P. F. rifles, and four batteries of 8.2-inch howitzers, a total of seventy-eight batteries. All the divisional artillery of the Eighty-ninth Division was under the command of Brigadier General Irwin, commanding the Fifty-seventh Brigade, until the battalions began to move forward, when only the Fifty-eighth Brigade and the 203rd French Regiment were to constitute the divisional artillery of the Eighty-ninth Division under the command of Brigadier General E. A. Millar, Sixth Field Artillery Brigade, who temporarily succeeded General Todd in command.



THE TERRAIN NEAR GESNES  
Panorama from Hill 255, one kilometer northwest of Gesnes.





THE MAIN ROAD INTO ROMAGNE

At 3:30 a. m., the preliminary bombardment started and at 5:30 the infantry attack began. The heavy guns fired upon known strong-points and upon sensitive points at great range. The 155 mm. howitzers furnished the accompanying barrage and the 75 mm. rifles fired the rolling barrage. The rolling barrage was quite remarkable. One battery in each battalion fired shrapnel only, and one-fourth of all the guns fired smoke shells. At 7:30 the rear battalion of the 122nd Field Artillery ceased firing and advanced to a position near La Dhuy Ferme. It was followed a half hour later by the forward battalion which advanced also to La Dhuy Ferme and went into position there. From these positions the regiments took up the rolling barrage at 12:30, according to schedule, and continued it to and beyond the day's objective.

The 124th Field Artillery commenced to move at 11:30, and by the middle of the afternoon was ready to fire from positions northeast of La Dhuy Ferme. The Eleventh Field Artillery left its position northwest of Romagne in the afternoon and marched to its new position south of Rémonville before day-break November 2. That afternoon, General Mil-lar's command moved to La Dhuy Ferme.



COMMANDERS OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH DIVISION  
Major General William M. Wright (right) and Major General  
Frank Winn, his successor in command.



The day's attack was conspicuously successful along the entire front of the army. Our troops reached all their objectives and in doing so, pierced the last German defensive system before Sedan, the *Freya Stellung* on the heights of Barricourt. The Eighty-ninth Division, with the support of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, captured 1,500 prisoners, many machine guns and field pieces, and great quantities of ammunition. It also was one of the divisions which made the greatest progress of the day.

Brigadier General Dwight B. Aultman, chief of artillery of the Fifth Corps wrote to General Millar:



#### THE AMERICANS ADVANCE THROUGH REMONVILLE

The wagons carrying machine gun ammunition, the ambulances, and the remnants of street barricades tell their own story. This photograph was taken on November 2, 1918, the morning after the Eighty-ninth Division entered Rémonville.

"I transmit herewith letter of commendation from the corps commander regarding the action of the artillery in the operations of November 1. In transmitting this letter I desire to add my own thanks and appreciation to you and to the officers and men of your brigade for the hearty coöperation that has resulted in such a brilliant success. To have enabled our infantry to advance in one day over a distance of nine kilometers, with small losses, capturing over a hundred guns, two hundred machine guns and more than two thousand prisoners is an achievement which the artillery may well be proud of, and I congratulate your entire command on having so well performed its share in the operation. I desire that the contents of the letter of the corps commander be made known to the officers and men of your command, as well as my own appreciation of their own splendid conduct."

The letter referred to, from Major General Summerall, commanding the Fifth Army Corps, follows:

"I desire to convey to you and to the officers and soldiers of all artillery serving in this corps my profound appreciation and my admiration of the brilliant manner in which the artillery of all classes has performed the difficult part allotted to it, especially during the advance of November 1. Although the artillery has been constantly in action day and night, sustaining the battle since the beginning of the present offensive, it has responded with self-sacrificing devotion to duty, with superb efficiency that is beyond all praise. While our dauntless infantry have advanced against the enemy prepared positions with a courage that elicits our greatest admiration, it must be recognized that without the powerful and skillful operation of the artillery it would have been impossible to accomplish the results which they have so brilliantly achieved. The tremendous volume of fire, the skillful arrangement of all objectives, and the perfect coördination with the infantry and machine guns have made the action of November 1 a model of completeness, and it must stand as a tribute to the able administrative officers who conceived the plans and to the technical ability and fidelity to duty of those who executed them. I beg that you convey to the officers and soldiers of all units of all artillery the foregoing sentiments and assure them of my abiding wishes for their continued success in the campaigns that lie before them."

On November 2 the 122nd Field Artillery advanced again to positions near Rémonville. At 5:30 a. m., the infantry continued the attack, protected by the rolling barrage of the two light regiments and the covering



IN THE FORET DE DIEULET



AINCREVILLE SEEN FROM THE SOUTH



THE CHURCH AT AINCREVILLE

A machine gun nest in the tower resisted for forty-eight hours before the infantry could wipe it out.

fire of the Eleventh Field Artillery. During the rest of the day the two light regiments, in liaison with the infantry, fired on all targets reported, while the Eleventh Field Artillery and the corps artillery shelled various sensitive areas and delivered counter-battery fire against enemy guns reported in action. The day's advance was five kilometers.

From this time until November 6 the advance continued rapidly, our infantry pressing ahead all the while—the advancing batteries occupying position after position. With effective artillery support the infantry penetrated and captured the Forêt de Dieulet and reached the Meuse. The brigade post of command moved from La Dhuy

Ferme to Rémonville, then to Barricourt and then to Tailly. On November 5 General Todd returned from the hospital and resumed command of the brigade. On the same day the 203rd French Regiment, attached to the brigade, opened fire on the main artery of the German communications in the east—the Metz-Mézières Railroad.

On November 7, in anticipation of supporting the river crossing, all regiments took up positions northwest of the Laneuville-Beaumont road. The Eleventh Field Artillery continued to fire on the Metz-Mézières Railroad. Ammunition was brought up and all the regiments were well stocked with supplies. General Todd completed the artillery plan of attack.

The night of November 10 a crossing of the Meuse was to be forced from Pouilly on the left to Stenay on the right. The eastern heights of the river were to be seized. To support this movement the divisional artillery was divided into three tactical groupings: (1) the Foreman grouping, composed of the 122nd Field Artillery and first battalion of the 124th Field Artillery, (2) the Rogers grouping, composed of the second battalion of the

124th Field Artillery and the battalion of the 203rd French Field Artillery, and (3) the Peace grouping, or the Eleventh Field Artillery. The commanders of the first two groupings arranged with the infantry commanders for the support of the left and right crossings, respectively. The Peace grouping remained under the control of the divisional artillery commander. It was planned to have it pass to the control of the corps artillery commander after the objective had been reached, but the armistice ended hostilities before this happened.

The attack started at 9:30 p. m., on November 10. By the morning of November 11 our troops were mopping up Pouilly and Stenay and we were on the heights north of Pouilly. November 11 at 11 a. m., the guns were silent. Germany had agreed to the terms of the armistice. Announce-



THE FERME DE LA WARNE AT POUILLY

ment of the German acceptance reached brigade headquarters at 9:30; at 10:45 the light guns ceased fire and at 11 the Peace grouping ceased fire. An unknown calm came upon the country.

The time between November 5 and November 11 was most trying for the brigade. The only route of supplies and ammunition was through Laneuville, a route constantly subjected to murderous enfilade shell fire. That we were able to keep the regiments supplied was due only to the dauntless bravery of officers and men alike.

A word of special praise is due to First Lieutenant Joseph Z. Burgee, brigade communications officer. Throughout the advance, brigade headquarters kept in constant touch with the regiments and with the infantry. For one day at least all the division communications were maintained over the brigade telephone lines. In handling this troublesome problem and by





GENERAL TODD'S HEADQUARTERS AT STENAY

In a chateau formerly occupied by the Crown Prince of Germany.

maintaining lines through heavily shelled areas, Lieutenant Burgee displayed not only initiative and daring, but great brilliancy as well.

Adequately to assess the accomplishment of the offensive that began on November 1 it is again necessary to quote Major General Summerall:

The announcement of a general armistice with the enemy brings to a temporary suspension the brilliant advance of the Fifth Corps which commenced November 1. The corps commander, therefore, takes this occasion to congratulate the officers and soldiers of the troops engaged with the corps upon the fortitude, the courage, the endurance, the skill and the determination that characterized their conduct throughout the operation. The corps commander further desires to express his gratitude for the loyalty with which the troops have responded to every demand which has been made upon them and to assure them of the deep sense of his pride and the honor that has come to him in commanding such superb organizations.

Commencing November 1 the troops have advanced more than thirty kilometers against the strongest opposition that the enemy could offer by his best troops. They have broken through



THE FIRST AMERICAN WAGONS IN STENAY

the last vestige of the Hindenburg Line and the *Freya Stellung*, captured many prisoners, numerous guns, large quantities of war matériel and have dispersed and destroyed the enemy organizations. On the very night preceding the armistice the troops of this corps made a brilliant passage of the river Meuse and occupied the high ground constituting the bridgehead to the east of that river.

Notwithstanding that since the last days of August these troops have been constantly marching and fighting, sleeping in the open and even at times going without their regular supplies of food, and subjected to rain, cold, and exposure in the

mud, there has been no fault nor complaint, but with a singleness of purpose they have devoted themselves to the great mission that devolves upon them.

By their progress they have contributed immeasurably to the total defeat of the enemy and compelled him to sue for terms. Prior to the advance, the corps commander took occasion to assure the troops that great results must follow upon their actions and that they must expect to capture large numbers of prisoners and booty. The success in compelling the enemy to sue for peace has been beyond our greatest expectations. History will accord to the troops of this corps their abundant share in the fruits of victory. All officers and soldiers who participated in this campaign must feel a just pride in the privilege that came to them and the place they must occupy in the gratitude and affection of our people. To those of our comrades that have laid down their lives, or who have suffered wounds or sickness, we and our nation will ever afford those sentiments of reverence and honor that they have justly earned.

After the armistice the brigade remained in the vicinity of Stenay until January 4, 1919, when it rejoined the Thirty-third Division in Luxemburg.

While at Stenay, Colonel Arthur L. Keesling assumed command of the 124th Field Artillery. He joined the regiment on November 13 and commanded it until it left Europe the following spring.

The 60-mile march of the brigade from Stenay to Luxemburg was accomplished in three days. The march discipline was excellent, and the condition of personnel, animals and matériel was considered by the major general and his staff to be a credit to the division. The various units spent the winter and early spring billeted in towns about ten miles north of the city of Luxemburg. The men quickly made friends with the inhabitants and their conduct was such as to inspire confidence in the American soldier.



SECOND BATTALION OF THE 123RD AT THE TRACTOR SHOW



VERTICAL AERIAL VIEW OF STENAY



STAFF OF THE 58TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

Seated: Lieutenant Colonel Roth, Brigadier General Todd, Captain Reed.

Standing: First Lieutenants Freeman, Burgee, Gribbel, Harris and Ford.

Although it was believed that all fighting was over, intensive training was continued and the command remained in a high state of efficiency. The reports of all inspectors showed that the brigade compared favorably as a fighting organization, not only with other units of the Thirty-third Division but also with the artillery brigades of all other divisions of the Army of Occupation. Its superior condition was especially noticeable in competitions at various horse and motor shows held throughout the occupied territory.

Foreign service at last came to an end. On May 16, 1919, the brigade, lacking only the ammunition train and the trench mortar battery, sailed from Brest for New York on board the *America*. The customary high state of morale and discipline was maintained throughout the voyage.

New York was reached May 24. The brigade remained for about a week at Camp Mills, L. I., and then entrained for Chicago. On June 4 it marched through the city, receiving the cheers of tremendous crowds.

The parade was the brigade's last active duty. After a few days at Camp Grant, it was mustered out.

## DECORATION RECEIVED BY HEADQUARTERS, 58TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

*Brigadier General*

H. D. Todd, Jr.

Distinguished Service Medal

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE HEADQUARTERS, FIFTY-EIGHTH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE, WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

Others received citation from General Bell.

*Brigadier General*

† Henry D. Todd, Jr.

*First Lieutenants*

Joseph Z. Burgee

Albert C. Ford

*Sergeant*

† James B. Allen

*Corporals*

† John S. French

\* Philip W. O'Neill

*Privates, First Class*

† Wilbur A. Andrews

† Joseph Paul Contarsy

† Raymund R. Edmunds

† William R. Schulte

*Privates*

† Walter A. Johansen

† James A. Feeley

\* Michael J. Rooney

CERTIFICATES FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS AND CONSPICUOUS SERVICE  
AWARDED BY GENERAL PERSHING TO PERSONNEL OF HEAD-  
QUARTERS, FIFTY-EIGHTH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE*First Lieutenant*

Joseph Z. Burgee

*Corporal*

Alexander B. Gordon

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS, HEADQUARTERS, 58TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

*Brigadier General*

Henry D. Todd, Jr.

Commander

*Lieutenant Colonel*

George Roth

Chief of Staff and Adjutant

*Majors*

Harold Bryson

Operations Officer

Ivan K. Hendrickson

Communications Officer

*Captain*

Gail Reed

Supply and Transportation Officer

*First Lieutenants*

Joseph Z. Burgee

Communications Officer

Franklin Dean (later Major)

Aide-de-Camp

Léon Dessez

Aide-de-Camp

Albert C. Ford

Munitions Officer and Commander of  
Headquarters Detachment

Edgar W. Freeman

Aide-de-Camp

Léon Tournier

Operations Officer French Army

J. B. Gribbel (later Captain)

Aide-de-Camp

Stanley G. Harris

Aide-de-Camp

John Stewart Pettit

Aide-de-Camp

*Adjutant*

Berthold Barth

Official Interpreter

## ORDERS AND LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

At the close of the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the following order was issued from the headquarters of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade:

## SPECIAL ORDERS:

No. 14:

1. The Brigade Commander cites the following organizations for distinguished conduct during the operations west of Verdun during the period from September 26th to October 11th:

## BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT

For courage and high devotion to duty of operations, signal, message and other details under shell fire in a rapid advance against a resisting enemy northwest of Verdun under adverse weather conditions extending over fifteen days.

122ND FIELD ARTILLERY

123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

124TH FIELD ARTILLERY

For immediate and consistent support of the Infantry in a rapid advance against a stoutly resisting enemy northwest of Verdun and steady artillery offensive against enemy counter attacks, over most difficult terrain and against adverse weather conditions, extending over fifteen days.

## 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN

For marked zeal and energy in the service of ammunition to the artillery during all hours of the day and night over the most difficult roads and against adverse weather conditions in a continuous operation against the enemy northwest of Verdun extending over fifteen days.

## 108TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY

For readiness and initiative in support of the Infantry and effectiveness of fire against first line trenches of the enemy northwest of Verdun on the first night of operations, September 26, 1918.

By Command of Brigadier General Todd

GEORGE ROTH,

Major, U. S. A., Brigade Adjutant.

On December 5, 1918, after hostilities had ended, General Todd in the following order, expressed his opinion of the command which he had helped to organize and train and with which he had fought:

## GENERAL ORDERS:

No. 17.

I desire to express my appreciation of the work of the officers and enlisted men of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade from the organization of the command until the present time.

Notwithstanding the drudgery and often what must have been considered unnecessary hardships and restrictions during the long preliminary training in the United States, there never was any indication of disloyalty or discontent; but there was displayed at all times a cheerful willingness to make every effort to form an efficient force. The same spirit prevailed while in training in France.

The devotion to duty and the high spirit developed during the training periods were shown by the work of all units of the command in their first battle—the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, September 12 and 13. Here, although associated with a veteran and most efficient division, the First Division of regulars, they won high praise from all ranks of that division, including its commander.

Without a day's rest after that engagement, the brigade marched every night to go into that part of the American line which is east of the Argonne and west of Montfaucon.

With the exception of a few days' rest near the line, the brigade, marching with the infantry, fought continuously from the 26th of September until the Meuse was crossed and hostilities ceased on November 11.

Throughout this period its one aim was to assist and protect the infantry of the division to which it was attached. Officers of the 122nd, 123rd and 124th Regiments accurately computed firing data at all hours of the day and night, often in the rain and almost always under shell fire. The officers and enlisted men of these regiments continually limbered up and changed positions under fire with the greatest steadiness, although they were often obliged to cut out the injured horses and lay to one side their dead and wounded comrades. Without regard to their losses or the distance to be marched, their batteries were kept well to the front, and their guns were manned at all times with an accuracy that caused most favorable comment from the infantry they were supporting.

The officers and the enlisted men of the 108th Ammunition Train never failed to deliver ammunition, no matter what shell fire their trucks had to pass through or what losses they suffered while in discharge of this duty.

The 108th Trench Mortar Battery, although placed in most advanced positions, always carried out its mission, even though, as in one case, three of its four officers were wounded.

The Brigade Staff never ceased to devote all its energy to the many and difficult tasks allotted to it. Working at one period day and night without protection from an almost continuous shell fire, it supplied all necessities and controlled the tactics of the brigade in a harmonious and able manner.

It can surely be said of the officers and enlisted men of the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade that they have performed their duties and served their country conscientiously, bravely, skillfully and to the limit of human endurance.

H. D. TODD, JR.,  
Brigadier General, U. S. A.

On June 15, 1919, at Camp Grant, where the command had been sent for demobilization. General Bell, commander of the Thirty-third Division, addressed the following letter to General Todd:

HEADQUARTERS 33RD DIVISION  
CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS

June 15, 1919.

Brigadier General H. D. Todd, Jr.,  
Commanding 58th Field Artillery Brigade,  
Camp Grant, Ill.

My dear General:

As your brigade is now about to be demobilized, I desire to state that the manner in which you trained and handled the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, both at Camp Logan, Texas, and after you joined the division at Luxemburg, was more than satisfactory to me and I was striving for the highest efficiency. The "esprit de corps" created in the brigade, the morale, discipline and efficiency of the personnel, left nothing to be desired, and I do not believe that there was a finer brigade of field artillery in the U. S. Army than your command when we started home from Luxemburg.

When it left for France, it was in excellent shape to go into action on account of the practical experience and training obtained from an unusually large amount of field firing.

I feel well qualified to express comparison, because, in France, I saw much field artillery, and while there had several brigades under my command as division commander and as acting corps commander; while at El Paso before the war, I also had a number of regular and national guard regiments of field artillery with me.

Your regiments were not surpassed in any way by those I saw, nor by any of those I inspected while in the inspector-general's department, or afterwards as a general officer, and, as an inspector, I inspected at least half of the regular field artillery of the U. S. Army.

I would not ask for higher fighting efficiency than was displayed by your brigade and at my last inspection in Luxemburg, it was in splendid shape to go into action and respond to any requirements that would be expected by any commanding general.

I heartily congratulate you upon the results obtained.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) GEORGE BELL, JR.,  
Major General, U. S. A., Commanding 33rd Division.



REMONVILLE SEEN FROM THE SOUTH

## The 122nd Field Artillery

Colonel Milton J. Foreman, Editor

By Lieutenant Colonel Frank R. Schwengel



WHEN the United States entered the World War in the spring of 1917, the intensity of operations on the front in France had reduced the conflict to siege warfare. The tactical employment of cavalry seemed remote, as mounted troops could not be used until the whole system of enemy trenches had been broken. It appeared unlikely, therefore, that cavalry would be called upon for early overseas service with the American forces, and there were grave suspicions that this branch would be relegated to Mexican "border duty" instead.

The First Cavalry, Illinois National Guard, was not content with such bleak prospects. If there was need for troops overseas it was entitled to play full part in

the theater of war, after its many years of service as a national guard regiment. It was for the purpose of insuring to the regiment the opportunity for early service overseas that Colonel Milton J. Foreman, the regimental commander, made direct appeal to the governor of Illinois and obtained consent to convert the organization into field artillery, the branch which seemed most suited to the cavalry regiment's prior training.

The conversion from cavalry into field artillery became effective July 1, 1917, and the regiment was officially designated the Second Field Artillery,





COLONEL MILTON J. FOREMAN  
Commanding the 122nd Field Artillery.

Illinois National Guard. Numerous difficulties beset the transition. True, the regiment had been trained to a high degree in field service, for it had been released from Mexican border service but a few months before. Its mounted training as cavalry, too, was useful for horsed artillery, but the theoretical, mechanical, and tactical phases of this arm of the service were little understood by either officers or men.



THE OLD HOME OF THE FIRST CAVALRY

In anticipation of the change, a school in field artillery was instituted June 20 at the armory in Chicago, and was continued under the regiment's own instructors, guided by United States artillery officers attached to the central department, until the regiment was called into federal service.

Thus, in a measure, the regiment in its early stages as field artillery was self-educated, and the training which it received at that time facilitated its progress under the United States and French army artillery instructors assigned to it later in the training camp at Houston. By the detailing of officers and noncommissioned officers to the established field artillery schools a comprehensive grasp of the subject was soon had, and steady improvement was shown as a result of unceasing theoretical and practical instruction which continued up to the very day of the regiment's departure for the front.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK R.  
SCHWENGEL

The reorganization of the regiment created a surplus of personnel under the existing table of organization for field artillery, and Troops B, D and G, stationed at Urbana, Springfield and Peoria, respectively, were made the nucleus of Illinois' third regiment of field artillery, later designated the

124th Field Artillery. In addition, more than 200 enlisted men were sent to training camps and later commissioned in the National Army.

Pursuant to the call of the President the regiment was ordered into the service of the United States on July 25, 1917. Camp was established in "Streeterville," opposite the regiment's new armory, then in course of construction at East Chicago Avenue and Lake Shore Drive. Unable to procure artillery equipment, the transformed troopers constructed makeshift gun carriages and caissons of sheet iron, mounted on the running gear of wagons, and used these for drill. There were available about 200 cavalry horses.

On August 16 Battery A, under command of Captain Joseph W. Mattes, entrained for Houston to prepare a section of Camp Logan, where the regiment was to receive its training as a part of the Thirty-third Division, under command of Major General George Bell, Jr. Only seven days later Captain Mattes was shot and killed in an effort to disarm negro soldier rioters in the city of Houston, where he had been sent to quell the disturbance.

The rest of the regiment broke camp in Chicago and entrained for Camp Logan on September 7, and immediately upon its arrival there it began an intensive period of training, covering every phase of field service, with schools for officers, noncommissioned officers and privates lasting far into the night. Efficiency in every detail was exacted, and step by step rudimentary training progressed to firing and field problems.

On September 21 the regiment was officially designated the 122nd Field Artillery and assigned to the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade.

The eagerly awaited order for overseas service came in May, 1918. The regiment then had attained a high degree of efficiency. Many of the vacancies in the ranks of the officers, created when selections were made from the regiment to complete other organizations, were filled by promotion from the



THE BAND PLAYS IN HOUSTON

rank. When the regiment entrained for the seaboard the latter part of May, the commissioned personnel was made up entirely of men who had held commissions in the unit in its national guard days or who had risen from the ranks.

Five days after it had left Houston the regiment arrived at Camp Merritt. There, after being equipped with new clothing, helmets and gas masks, it boarded the British tramp steamer *Kashmir* at Hoboken, on May 25, and on the following morning waved goodbye to American shores.

Submarine dangers kept the ship zig-zagging over an extreme northerly course. There were numerous alarms but no actual attacks. On June 8 the *Kashmir*, which was one of a convoy of thirteen vessels under the protection of the United States cruiser *Charleston*, reached the Irish Sea and docked at Liverpool.

There was a halt of twenty-four hours in Knotty Ash, a rest camp outside the big English port. The regiment then entrained for Winchester. After forty-eight hours of rest there the journey was continued by train to Southampton and thence by boat across the channel to Havre, where the regiment was enthusiastically received. Another forty-eight hours was spent at Rest Camp No. 1, then the regiment entrained in French box-cars, with destination unknown. After two and one half days of circuitous travel by rail, passing through Rouen, Paris, Champigny, Lens, La Roche, Dijon and Besançon, the regiment arrived at Ornans on the afternoon of June 16 and detrained.

This journey brought the regiment for the first time into the atmosphere of war. The constant movement of French troops and hospital trains, the assembled refugees at stations awaiting transportation, the tales which filtered through of reverses for the Allies, coupled with the plaint that "America comes too late," all created a picture of desolation and despair to men fresh in a new venture.

On the arrival at Ornans billeting areas were assigned. Regimental headquarters, the second battalion, and headquarters and supply companies were billeted in Valdahon and the first battalion at Etalans. Schools were immediately established to give the regiment its final training before it entered



COLONEL ROBERT R. MCCORMICK  
Lieutenant Colonel of the 122nd Field Artillery, later  
promoted and assigned to another regiment.

the battle area. The country highways and byways were scoured for horses. French 75 mm. guns and caissons, horse equipment and wagons arrived. In eight weeks the regiment was schooled, equipped, inspected and declared fit for the fight.

On August 21 the 122nd moved off to the front and two days later it arrived at Pagny-sur-Meuse. At last it was in the battle zone. Under cover of darkness the regiment moved on for about twenty miles into the great French national forest, de la Reine, and awaited orders to take up its position on the line.

Organization commanders and assignments of batteries upon entry of the regiment into the line, assignments which continued until the close of operations, were as follows:

#### HEADQUARTERS

Colonel Milton J. Foreman, commanding.  
Headquarters Company—Captain Kent A. Hunter.  
Supply Company—Captain Rupert Donovan.  
Medical Corps—Major Edmund T. Douglas.

#### FIRST BATTALION

Major Frank R. Schwengel, commanding.  
Captain Frank O. Wood, adjutant.  
Battery A—First Lieutenant William G. Rosier.  
Battery B—Captain Leon E. Cutter.  
Battery C—Captain Robert E. Myhrman.

#### SECOND BATTALION

Major Leroy E. Nelson, commanding.  
Captain S. T. Slawitsky, adjutant.  
Battery D—Captain Jewett D. Matthews.  
Battery E—Captain George M. Hepple.  
Battery F—Captain Harry Hill.



ONE OF THE BATTERY POSITIONS AT RAMBUCOURT

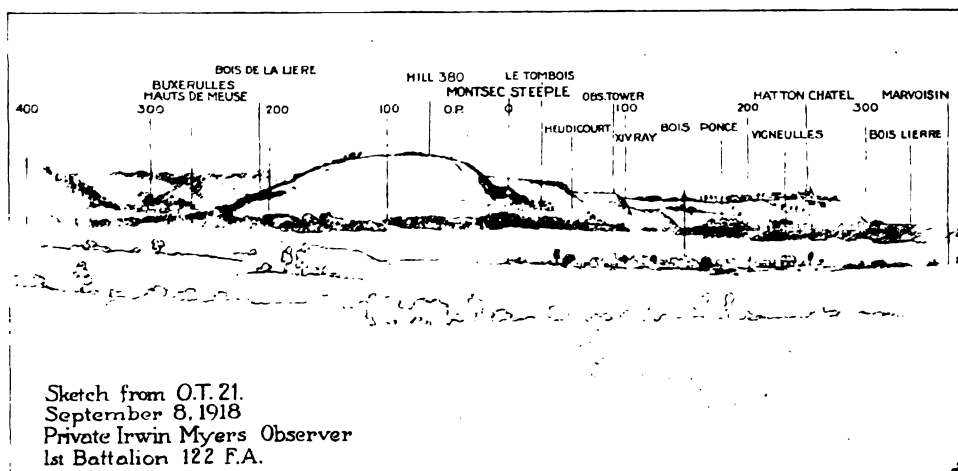
On August 25 the first battalion took up a position with the French field artillery at Rambucourt opposite Mont Sec, forming Group U of the Toul defensive sector, reporting for duty to Colonel De Chaunac of the French army. In addition to its 75's there were assigned to the battalion two batteries of French 90 mm. guns.



CAMOUFLAGED GUN PIT AT RAMBUCOURT

An observing station was established in a partly demolished building in Rambucourt, a forward station at Xivray, and a lateral station north of Bouconville. Animated interdiction and harassing fire was directed upon Richécourt, Mont Sec, cross-roads, strong-points and assembly points, in addition to the fleeting targets reported by terrestrial and French aerial observers. Sergeant Earle Nessler, Battery C, was the first casualty, being seriously wounded on September 4.

The second battalion moved into position on September 7. Activity all along the line bespoke an offensive of magnitude. Enemy observation became more alert, and as a result movements were confined to hours of darkness. The stage was being set for the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, which so defiantly had held its own for four years. In fact, since 1915 no serious attempt to reduce the salient had been made.



LOOKING TOWARD MONT SEC FROM THE 122ND'S POSITIONS



MONT SEC AND THE TOWN NESTLING AT ITS BASE

On the night of September 11, in a drizzling rain, the infantry stealthily crept forward to take up positions. Artillery telephone lines and liaison details were sent forward to the most advanced positions. The 122nd was selected to cover the Sixteenth Infantry of the First Division in the attack.

At 1 a. m. of the 12th the sky over a front of twenty-four miles was lighted suddenly with a blood red glare, and the heavens rolled with echoes of the thunderous voices of hundreds of guns. The way was being paved for the advance of the American doughboy by the greatest concentration of artillery fire of the war. The preparation fire was initiated with gas concentra-



ON THE SIDE OF MONT SEC

This masonry, erected by the Germans in 1914, was the entrance to an underground passage which led to an observation point on the crest of the hill.

tration on the woods of Gargantua, Joli, Lierre and Burly. Until 5 o'clock in the morning the incessant drumfire of the 75's continued, with interpolated crashes of the heavier 155's and of the coast defense guns in the rear, mounted by the navy and coast artillery men for this first all-American attack.

As the sun broke through the clouds, at 5 o'clock, the doughboys, led by baby tanks, went over the top, under the protective fire of a rolling artillery barrage which advanced at the rate of 100 meters in four min-



#### THE BREAK IN THE SAINT MIHIEL SALIENT

Infantry pouring through Richecourt on the morning of September 12.

utes. They found broken wire, heavy concrete and steel dugouts crushed like eggshells, and line after line of broken trench works. Accompanying the infantry were the 122nd's liaison details, observers, telephone line-men, a detail to put into action captured field pieces, and gun sections from Batteries A and E.

There was little opposition. The enemy, under the hail of metal from the artillery, had started north with the break of day. A few machine gunners, left behind to harass the American advance from pill-box emplacements, kept up a desultory fire, but they greeted with cries of "Kamerad" the first Americans they saw, and a stream of prisoners began to flow back from Seicheprey, the first town reached, an hour after the attack began.

"Impregnable" Mont Sec was reduced with scarcely a struggle,



MAJOR LEROY E. NELSON





#### THE RUINS OF LAHAYVILLE

The crest of Mont Sec appears in the distance.

and vast quantities of German stores of all kinds fell into American hands. Richécourt, Lahayville and Nonsard were taken. At 8 o'clock the infantry threatened to get out of range, and the 122nd moved forward and took up position at Richécourt. The carrying of portable bridges on its caissons enabled the first battalion to cross rapidly the numerous wide trenches and ditches encountered.

Night found the infantry dug in on the northern edge of Nonsard, about ten miles from the jumping-off line. The 122nd's guns were mounted for the night on a protective barrage line, and at dawn the next morning the regiment moved on again, its worn horses dragging guns and caissons over the shell-torn roads and deeply mired fields to a new position northwest of Nonsard. The infantry pushed on, taking Hattonville, Vigneulles and Billy.



A SAMPLE OF BARBED WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS BEFORE LAHAYVILLE

At noon on September 14 a junction was effected by the First Division with the flanking attack forces that had driven in from the east and west. The St. Mihiel salient had been nipped off. Fourteen thousand German prisoners had been taken, together with immense quantities of guns, ammunition and equipment.

With the completion of this movement the 122nd Field Artillery received orders that were to take it into its second great ad-

venture. On the afternoon of September 14 came orders to march northwest toward Verdun. It proved to be a five-night march, averaging nearly twenty miles a night. Horses and men became worn to the point of exhaustion, but kept on. Resting by day and marching by night to escape observation, the regiment proceeded by way of Woinville, Apremont, Gironville, Sampigny, Pierrefitte, Belrain, Deuxnouds, Beuzée, Fleury and Parois, and took cover on September 19 in the Forêt de Hesse, preparatory to the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Reconnaissance of positions was made below Avocourt, and guns were snaked into position under the very nose of the enemy on the nights of September 23 and 24.

Again the suppressed activity presaged a great offensive. The Americans held a twenty-five mile line west of the Meuse. The 122nd Field



THE VALLEY FIVE HUNDRED METERS EAST OF VÉRY  
Over which the Ninety-first Division advanced.

Artillery was placed in support of the Ninety-first Division, occupying the central sector of the line.

Anticipating the attack, the enemy shelled the American lines heavily, searching out the artillery positions, concentrating on September 25 on the regimental echelon. Band Leader Albert Bobene, Postal Corporal Charles Huber, Musician Olin C. Luther, Private Clarence Priebe, a runner, and Private Frank Gansloser received wounds from which they later died. That night the liaison details were pushed forward and communication with the most advanced infantry units was established. At 2 o'clock on the morning of the 26th the preparation fire commenced. At 5:30, the zero hour, the infantry advanced and, following the rolling artillery barrage, plunged through the Bois de Cheppy, the Bois de Véry and the Bois de Bethincourt. At dusk the



A GERMAN SIGN IN THE BOIS DE CHEPPY

infantry patrols had reached the hills beyond Véry.

Resistance was bitter and the counter-fire of the enemy's batteries terrific. It was an entirely different affair from St. Mihiel. Added to the stout resistance of the enemy, the nature of the ground traversed impeded the movement of the advancing troops.

Alternately through dense woods and across fields open to enemy observation from the heights beyond, the advance continued with tireless energy.

The first battalion had moved forward at the commencement of the attack, following the infantry closely. Coming abruptly to the first German trenches, it was delayed until it bridged the wide gap, then pressed on to Véry, where it was forced to drop trails and reply to the enemy's batteries at short range. The second battalion completed the barrage, then moved out rapidly, taking position at the edge of the Bois de Véry.

The counter-battery fire of the enemy told heavily here. Direct hits, which registered on teams and caissons, marked the precision of their fire. Private Howard J. Wilhelm, Battery A; Private Edward F. Behn, Battery



IN DEATH VALLEY: THE ENEMY CROCODILE TRENCH

Position occupied by batteries of the 122nd Field Artillery below Epinonville.



THE PLANK ROAD IN DEATH VALLEY

B; Private Clifford Schaffner, Medical Department; Private Edward J. Byron, Battery E; and Private Mederic Cagnon of the French Army, attached to the regiment, were killed in action. Many others were gassed or wounded.

In a forward position near Epinonville, while serving as artillery observer, Lieutenant Latimer Johns of Battery D was killed. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to him posthumously for his fearlessness in action.

The fighting became desperate. The enemy was forced to hold at all costs in order to protect his main line of supplies, running east and west from Metz to Sedan, and barely twenty miles beyond the advancing American line. Each day saw a forward push of a kilometer, sometimes two. On September 29 the 122nd advanced again, this time to a line just south of Epinonville. The advance infantry lines were but one and one-half miles ahead, below the town of Gesnes.

An enemy airplane raid made on the regiment's position in Death Valley on October 2 caused many casualties. As no anti-aircraft guns were available, the enemy planes were finally driven away by the fire of the machine gun sections of the batteries. Color Sergeant Leslie Delihant, Headquarters Company, and Private Charles A. Krueger, Battery D, were killed, and a dozen others were seriously wounded in the bombing. Wagoner Andrew Cina, Supply Company, and First Class Privates Fred W. Hellman and Charles Porter, Battery A, were killed by shell fire at the gun positions.

On the night of October 4 the Thirty-second Division relieved the Ninety-first Division, but the 122nd Regiment continued on the line in sup-



THE CHURCH AT ROMAGNE ON FIRE

A German shell had just struck the steeple, setting it afire, on October 29, 1918.

port of the fresh division. The infantry continued to advance a few hundred yards a day. There was no general attack for several days, while the divisions on the flanks were coming up to the line established by the Ninety-first.

Montfaucon, to the right, had been a thorn in the side of the infantry, holding up the advance for several days, but was finally taken, with heavy losses. In the meantime, the Côte de Dame Marie, a cliff-sided hill north of Gesnes, was a stumbling block for the Thirty-second. A heavy line of trenches, the base work of the *Kriemhilde Stellung*, ran along its crest.

At 1 a. m., October 8, intensive destructive fire was directed upon hostile trench lines, wire, machine gun and trench mortar emplacements, and strong-points that previously had been charted.

During the night of October 8-9 the destructive fire of the artillery ceased, and harassing and interdiction fire was substituted, with high explosive and gas shells concentrated upon the Transvaal Farm and upon assembly points, crossroads and communication points.

The attack of the Thirty-second Division on the Bois de Valoup, the Tranchée de Dantrise and the Tranchée de la Mamelle, with the heights north of Romagne as the objective, commenced at daybreak October 9, preceded by covering fire upon successive targets, and a rolling barrage advancing at the rate of 100 meters every six minutes. On October 10 the objective was taken and held.

The night of October 11 the entire Fifty-eighth Brigade was relieved by the Fifty-seventh Field Artillery Brigade and ordered to Jubécourt, about twelve miles to the rear, for reëquipment and replacements of men and horses. The regiment remained at Jubécourt until October 24 when it returned to the lines, the first battalion taking up position at Romagne and the second at Gesnes. Regimental headquarters were established at the

Transvaal Farm, which lay midway between the two towns. Here the regiment took up a defensive position, well advanced, expecting momentarily the continuation of the drive. The enemy searched out the battery positions during the day, and at nightfall drenched the areas with gas, to which the regiment in turn responded energetically with high explosives and gas on the woods of l'Epasse, Hazois, and Banthéville and La Dhuy and La Tuillerie Farms.

The new drive, for which the Americans had been making extensive preparations and which inaugurated the third phase of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, was launched at daybreak on November 1. After two hours of preparation fire, beginning at 3:30 a. m., the barrage crashed down, and the infantry went over.

In this operation the 122nd regiment was in direct support of the 177th Brigade of the Eighty-ninth Division. With guns of Battery B accompanying the leading units of infantry the entire regiment followed soon after and pressed on beyond La Dhuy Farm, where position was taken up and the rolling barrage continued.

Obstinate resistance was encountered here, and a heavy counter-barrage was silenced. Though fatigued from the twenty-four hours of firing and advancing, the regiment moved forward beyond Rémonville during the night, and fired a barrage at daybreak of November 2 to clear the way for the intrepid infantry, which pressed through Barricourt and Nouart during the day.

November 3 carried the regiment beyond Nouart. In another night march on November 4, over the open ground below the heights of the Meuse,



A BALLOON OBSERVATION POST ON THE ROAD BETWEEN BANTHEVILLE AND REMONVILLE



MAJOR HAROLD P. GOODNOW

Who assumed command of the first battalion after Major Schwengel was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

the regiment advanced to Beaulclair, while Laneuville and Stenay were still in the hands of the enemy.

The advantage of the enemy's positions here was clear. The heights of the Meuse commanded the flat, marshy, flooded areas over which the attack was made. The infantry, in open order, advanced rapidly, but numerous obstacles, well conceived by the enemy, handicapped the advance of the artillery. The regiment was ordered to the left flank of the division sector, which course was due north of its position at Beaulclair. The only road available early in the morning of November 5 was the Beaulclair-Laneuville-Beaumont road, which upon reconnaissance was found impassable because of demolished bridges.

While the second battalion continued its fire the first battalion moved

forward across the open fields in a frantic effort to fulfill its mission. Onward trudged the weary horses, dragging the guns and heavily loaded caissons, and mercifully assisted by tired cannoneers and drivers. Hub deep in mud, with from eight to twelve horses tugging frantically at each of the carriages, the column moved across the marshes and through the deeply mired fire paths of the Forêt de Dieulet to the Ferme de la Fontaine-aux-Fresnes.

On the following day the second battalion moved over the Beaulclair - Laneuville - Beaumont road, under pitiless enemy fire, but reached the new position with minor losses.

From then on until the moment of the armistice the regiment fired an average of 6,000 rounds daily on Pouilly, Autreville, LaVignette, and St. Remy farms and the heights on the east bank



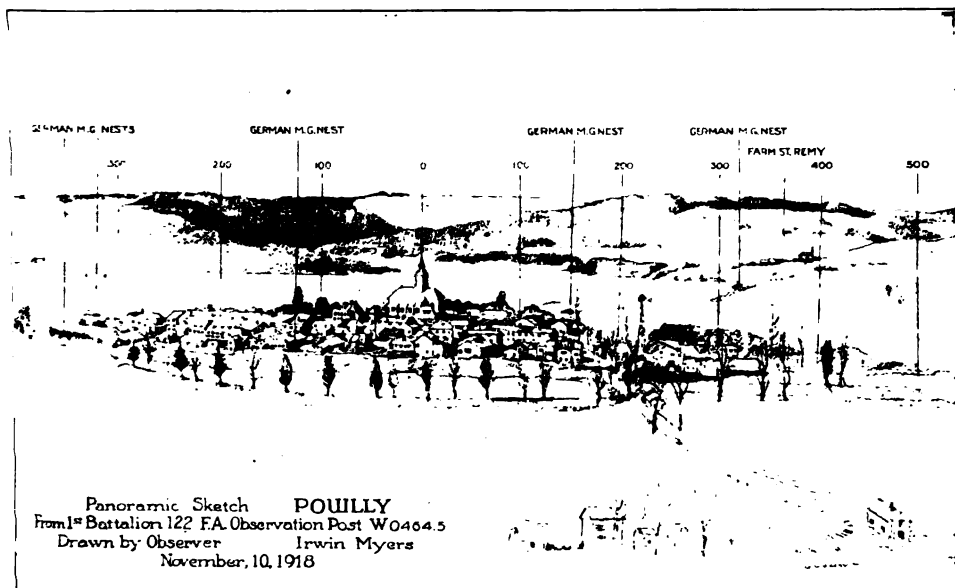
THE FLOODED MEUSE AT STENAY

of the Meuse. Harassing and interdiction fire in spasmodic bursts was directed upon crossroads and assembly points. The "S" curve of the Meuse below Autreville, along the east banks of which ran the enemy's lines, and the visibility of night firing from the heights beyond laid open the artillery positions to nearly ninety degrees of counter-artillery fire.

On the night of November 10 orders were received to cover the advance of the 178th Infantry Brigade across the Meuse to its objective beyond Autreville. The attack was to be a general one all along the line. There was no inkling of the armistice which became effective the day following.

Infantry patrols crossed at Pouilly, Inor and Martincourt at dusk. The infantry started to ferry across the river in flat-bottom boats at 8 p. m. At 9:30 the artillery opened, and the infantry continued its advance under the protective fire of a rolling barrage with progressive C. P. O. fire directed upon previously charted machine gun, trench mortar and artillery emplacements and strong-points. Counter-battery fire somewhat reduced the fire of the enemy batteries, but with the coming of dawn an animated artillery duel was still in full play, continuing until 11 o'clock, the armistice hour. The attacking infantry reached its objective with but minor casualties, except to its liaison battalion, which suffered heavily.

Promptly at 11 all firing ceased. Deathlike stillness prevailed. The guns still projected their tubes defiantly toward the enemy, but the muzzles were covered and caisson doors were closed. Cannoneers lay sprawled under the heavens in much-needed sleep, while drivers led their worn horses from the damp, cold woods into the open to graze. From an overcast sky emerged



PANORAMIC SKETCH OF POUILLY AS SEEN FROM THE OBSERVATION POST OF THE FIRST BATTALION





#### HEADQUARTERS GROUP

Left to right: Chaplain Edward C. Rice, Lieutenant Colonel Frank R. Schwengel, Colonel Milton J. Foreman, Lieutenant Keith Richardson, Captain Lawrence V. Regan.

the warming rays of the sun, mercifully drying drenched clothing and equipment.

The armistice brought no cheering on the line, no wild scenes of enthusiasm. Methodically men emerged from the mud, which had become the bane of their existence, cleaned up themselves, the horses and guns, and moved again freely in the open without dread of overhead detection. All precautions were taken in anticipation of the renewal of hostilities, but subconsciously it was felt that the enemy was beaten into lasting submission.

In the advance from Romagne to the final position, Private Harry T. Price, Headquarters Company; Private John A. Eaton, Battery D; and Private Leon W. Smittle, Battery F, were killed, and Corporal Adna H. Bowen, Battery B, was fatally wounded. The last casualty of the regiment on the line was Private George F. Hadd, Battery E, who was wounded by a shell fragment a few minutes before the armistice became effective.

On November 14 the regiment was ordered to advance into Germany with the Army of Occupation, but while it was on the road orders were changed and it was directed to billet at Laneuville and transfer its horses and harness to the Second Artillery Brigade. The guns were parked at the railroad in Dun-sur-Meuse.

Early in December the regiment moved to Saulmory, and the Fifty-eighth Artillery Brigade was attached to the Seventy-ninth Division for administrative purposes. Christmas and New Year's were spent in billets at Stenay, the German Crown Prince's former headquarters.

AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE MEUSE AT DUN





#### OFFICERS OF THE FIRST BATTALION

Seated: Captain William G. Rosier, Captain William H. Neblett, Major Harold P. Goodnow, Captain Robert E. Myhrman.

Standing: Lieutenant August Unfug, Lieutenant L. A. Hicks, Lieutenant S. K. Jones, Lieutenant Joseph F. Skeeahan, Captain John W. McCarthy, Lieutenant Joseph W. Hartman, Captain Leon E. Cutter, Lieutenant E. J. DeWitt, Lieutenant John L. Anderson, Lieutenant Ralph J. Syfan, Lieutenant Frank Pickell, Lieutenant Herman H. Harder.

On December 20 the regiment was supplied with a thousand American horses, and with harness and wagons, which had just arrived from the United States. Throughout the war operations French horses, guns and wagons had been used.

The matériel stored at the railhead in Dun-sur-Meuse was withdrawn, and the regiment was ordered to march overland to join the Thirty-third Division, in the Army of Occupation in Luxemburg. On January 6, 1919, the regiment moved from Stenay and, after a three-day march by way of Dampicourt, Virton and Arlon, was assigned to billets in Bissen, Colmar-Berg and Boevange in the Duchy of Luxemburg.

Regular drills, schools, and maneuvers were resumed. The practical lessons of the war were applied, and no effort was spared to keep the organizations in fighting shape. Winter elements were no bar to incessant working out of field problems.

The regiment entered the various horse and vehicle competitive inspections and exhibitions with enthusiasm and gained some degree of supremacy. It won the Major General George Bell, Jr., trophy, the highest award at the Thirty-third Division horse show. In the Sixth Army Corps horse show, held in Luxemburg City, it won the greatest number of ribbons of any regiment in the corps, and at the Third Army horse show at Coblenz, it again distinguished itself by its array of horses and vehicles.



## OFFICERS OF THE SECOND BATTALION

Seated: Captain Clyde L. Savage, Captain George M. Hepple, Major Leroy E. Nelson, Captain Harry Hill.

Standing: Lieutenant E. P. Deutsch, Lieutenant Leslie S. Tice, Lieutenant Loyal P. Bailey, Lieutenant George R. Weeks, Lieutenant Henry V. Burgee, Captain Charles A. Plamondon, Lieutenant H. Harper Moulton, Captain Samuel T. Lawson, Lieutenant William J. Clark, Lieutenant Charles J. O'Neill, Lieutenant Edward D. Hicks, Jr., Lieutenant Donald R. Gooding.

In the spring came orders for the homeward trip. On April 29 the regiment entrained for the seaboard and it arrived at Camp Pontanezen near Brest on May 3. Awaiting transport, the regiment did not board ship until May 15 and then was assigned to the *America*. After an uneventful sea voyage of ten days the *Goddess of Liberty* was joyfully sighted.

Nine days of waiting followed at Camp Mills, before entrainment for Chicago, where the regiment paraded in a most enthusiastic home-coming on June 5. Entraining again, the regiment was sent to Camp Grant, where it was formally discharged on June 8, 1919.

The 122nd's record of overseas service is briefly summarized in the citations, commendatory letters and award of decorations to the regiment and its members. Colonel Foreman received the Distinguished Service Medal, and fifteen officers and men were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Eighty-eight officers and men were cited in orders by General Pershing, two hundred and one names were placed on the Thirty-third Division honor roll, and ninety-one were cited by Brigadier General Todd, commanding the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade. Nine regimental citations were given the regiment by corps commanders, and division and brigade commanders of the First, Thirty-second and Eighty-ninth Divisions.

In addition to the formal citations, which are reproduced elsewhere, commendation was given the regiment in several letters received by Colonel Fore-



#### OFFICERS OF HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPLY COMPANY

Seated: Lieutenant Roger K. Eastman, Captain Rupert D. Donovan, Captain Kent A. Hunter, Lieutenant Ewing W. Stephens.

Standing: Lieutenants Safford Quintard, C. H. Doehling, Daniel E. Schueren, Paul H. Rogers, Michael J. Cherry, F. J. Downing, Elmer D. Calvin, Arthur S. Patrick, Lucius M. Sargent.

man from officers of the divisions which the 122nd supported. Major General William Wright, who commanded the Eighty-ninth Division at the beginning of the last phase of the Argonne-Meuse offensive, wrote as follows:

"I want to write you a letter to express my appreciation of your services during our drive from Banthéville Woods to the Meuse. The spirit and desire to coöperate in every way of your regiment was excellent, and its shooting also very good. The assistance you rendered us was greatly appreciated by me and by the infantry of the Eighty-ninth Division. It was a very critical situation, changing artillery in the midst of the battle, and the high coöperation of your officers and men did much to help out."

Colonel John C. H. Lee, General Staff, Chief of Staff, Eighty-ninth Division, wrote to Colonel Foreman:

"I shall never forget the excellent support which your artillery gave this division in the drive of November 1. Nor shall I forget on November 2 how I visited your post of command at Rémonville, and the many conversations we had that day either personally or over the wire, and how your batteries looked on the side of the hill. After each conversation with you that day I had a feeling of cheerfulness. We knew that the thing would finally go through and it did."

Brigadier General Herman Hall, commanding the 178th Brigade, Eighty-ninth Division, covered by the regiment in the armistice drive November 10-11, wrote the following commendatory letter:



#### MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

Seated: Captain Robert G. Carper, Captain Erwin S. Hottinger, Major Edmund T. Douglas, Captain James F. Musser.

Standing: Captain Victor Y. Coulter, Lieutenant Raymond C. Coulson.

"The service rendered by the 'Foreman Group,' consisting of the 122nd Field Artillery and one battalion of the 124th Field Artillery, was most valuable and efficient. Teamwork between the artillery and infantry was all that could be desired. The liaison work rendered by Lieutenant Colonel Frank R. Schwengel was especially commendable; he was at all times willing, efficient and energetic. Forcing a crossing of the Meuse by the infantry could not have been so successfully accomplished without the artillery support."

In the operations of the war the 122nd served successively with the French, and with the First, Ninety-first, Thirty-second, and Eighty-ninth American Divisions. The infantry it covered, during the periods of the offensives, advanced a total of forty miles. The regiment's total losses were twenty-five officers and men killed or died of wounds and seventy-four wounded in action.

With such a record of valor and sacrifice the bright red standard of the 122nd Field Artillery, frayed and torn, was at last, back in Illinois, reverently encased with the orange colors of the First Cavalry, which was its forbear.



OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Second Lieutenant*

Latimer A. Johns

*Band Leader*

Albert Bobene

*Color Sergeant*

Leslie E. Delihant

*Corporals*

Charles A. Huber

Adna H. Bowen, Jr.

*Musician*

Olin C. Luther

*Wagoner*

Andrew Cina

*Privates, First Class*

Frank A. Gansloser

Fred W. Hellman

Robert A. Houlihan

Charles Porter

Frank H. Storms

*Privates*

Dewey Anderson

George Anderson

Robert O. Barnes

Edward F. Behn

Edward J. Byron

John A. Eaton

Charles A. Krueger

Hugh J. McQuaid

Harry T. Price

Clarence A. Priebe

Clifford L. Schaffner

Leon W. Smittle

Howard J. Wilhelm

Stanley Zalinkowski

DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY

*Colonel*

Milton J. Foreman

Distinguished Service Medal

*Captain*

Robert E. Myhrman

Distinguished Service Cross

*First Lieutenants*

Latimer A. Johns

Distinguished Service Cross

Harold A. Wascher

Distinguished Service Cross

*Second Lieutenants*

Dan E. Scheuren, Jr.

Distinguished Service Cross

Charles K. Templeton

Distinguished Service Cross

*Corporals*

Gordon V. Kellogg

Distinguished Service Cross

Augustine C. Kelly

Distinguished Service Cross

Irwin Myers

Distinguished Service Cross

Harold D. Red

Distinguished Service Cross

*Sergeants*

George E. Clark

Distinguished Service Cross

Charles Hickok

Distinguished Service Cross

Frank P. Prete

Distinguished Service Cross

*Privates, First Class*

George H. Burchill

Distinguished Service Cross

Harvey M. Hopp

Distinguished Service Cross

*Privates*

Frank W. Ryan

Distinguished Service Cross

Croix de Guerre

Medaille Militaire



WINNERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Top row: Lieutenant L. A. Johns, Lieutenant Dan E. Schueren, Jr., Corporal G. V. Kellogg.  
 Second row: Corporal A. C. Kelly, Corporal Irwin Myers, Sergeant George E. Clark.  
 Bottom row: Sergeant Charles Hickok, Sergeant Frank Prete, First Class Private Harvey Hopp.



## CITATIONS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



CAPTAIN ROBERT E. MYHRMAN

*Captain Robert E. Myhrman:*

Near Véry, September 26, 1918, while his battery position was being heavily shelled, Captain Myhrman remained constantly with his men, ordering them to safety and caring for a wounded man. After his battery had been placed in position, he conducted his own reconnaissance and prepared his own firing data with no regard to the danger to which he was exposed from heavy shell fire.

*First Lieutenant Latimer A. Johns (deceased):*

Near Gesnes, September 13, 1918, Lieutenant Johns was in command of a platoon supporting an assaulting battalion of infantry. During the attack he went far ahead of the infantry to establish an observation post where he directed fire from his guns, thereby rendering valuable assistance to the advancing battalion. He went through a heavy barrage and enfilading machine gun fire, but when returning to his post he was killed.

*Second Lieutenant Dan E. Schueren, Jr.:*

Near Barricourt, November 1, 1918, Lieutenant Schueren, then a sergeant, acting as liaison agent with an assaulting infantry battalion, took command on his

own initiative, of a platoon of infantry when its commander was wounded. He ordered the advance resumed, and under his leadership machine gun nests that threatened to hold up the advance of the entire battalion were flanked and silenced. He showed marked bravery, constantly inspiring his men.

*Second Lieutenant Charles K. Templeton:*

Near Nouart, November 5, 1918, after telephone communications had been destroyed and his runners scattered on their missions Lieutenant Templeton started on a mission of extreme importance from the infantry to the artillery. His path lay through heavy machine gun and shell fire, and before he reached his destination he was severely wounded. He succeeded, however, in relaying his message to its destination.

*Second Lieutenant (later First Lieutenant) Harold A. Wascher:*

Near Nouart, November 5, 1918, Lieutenant Wascher, while commanding an observation party, established a post well in advance of the infantry and, despite severe fire, set up and maintained telephone communications. He was severely wounded.

*Corporal Gordon V. Kellogg, Headquarters Battery A:*

Near Bois de Banthéville, October 30, 1918, Corporal Kellogg, having been sent on a reconnaissance, reached the enemy's lines and returned with information of great value.

*Corporal Augustine C. Kelly, Battery B:*

Near Banthéville, October 29, 1918, Corporal Kelly voluntarily proceeded to a point within 150 meters of the enemy, where he remained more than an hour obtaining valuable information. All this time he was subjected to severe shell, machine gun and sniper fire, being wounded by a shell when returning.

*Corporal Irwin Myers, Headquarters Company:*

Near Romagne, October 30, 1918, facing heavy machine gun and artillery fire, Corporal Myers crawled beyond the infantry front lines to a crest overlooking the enemy's position. Working under continuous fire he made a panoramic sketch of hostile positions, which proved to be of great value in directing our artillery fire.

*Corporal Harold D. Red, Headquarters, Battery A:*

Near Bois de Banthéville, October 30, 1918, Corporal Red, under heavy shell fire, crawled 200 meters to a shell hole to draw a sketch of the enemy's position.

**Sergeant George E. Clark, Battery D:**

Near Epinonville, October 2, 1918, when his battery echelon was bombed, Sergeant Clark with great courage and presence of mind conducted his men to shelter and then took charge of rescuing and treating the wounded, until he was himself severely wounded by an exploding bomb, the amputation of one of his arms being necessary.

**Sergeant Charles Hickok, Headquarters Company:**

Near Verdun, November 1, 1918, Sergeant Hickok commanding an artillery liaison detail, succeeded in laying a telephone line through a heavy barrage and opening up communication between infantry and artillery. Just as he reached a point where his line was connected with the infantry he was severely wounded.

**Sergeant Frank P. Prete, Battery B:**

In action near Banthéville, November 1, 1918, Sergeant Prete three times passed through a heavy barrage and machine gun fire while guiding a combat train forward to an advanced artillery platoon.

**Private (First-Class) George H. Burchill, Battery C:**

Near Véry, September 26, 1918, Private Burchill, though suffering from illness, volunteered and performed valiant service as a telephone operator under heavy shell fire. Later he went out alone through shell fire to repair the telephone line.

**Private (First-Class) Harvey M. Hopp, Battery C:**

Near Romagne, October 20, 1918, under fire from artillery, machine guns and snipers, Private Hopp crawled out in the open to within fifty meters of a hostile position, remained there several hours, and returned with valuable information concerning the enemy's movements.

**Private Frank W. Ryan, Headquarters Company:**

Near Nouart, November 1-9, 1918, maintaining a telephone line three kilometers (about two miles) long over a period of eight days, Private Ryan was under a terrific bombardment during the whole period, keeping communication under circumstances which called for the greatest courage and determination. He had no relief, and was at one time without rations forty-eight hours.

### OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

All others received citations only from General Bell.

**Colonel**

† Milton J. Foreman

**Lieutenant Colonel**

† Frank R. Schwengel

**Major**

Harold P. Goodnow

† Leroy E. Nelson

**Captains**

Leon E. Cutter

† Marshall Field

† George M. Hepple

† Harry Hill

† Kent A. Hunter

John W. McCarthy

† William H. Neblett

† Charles A. Plamondon

† Lawrence V. Regan

† Edward F. Rice

† William G. Rosier

† Clyde L. Savage

† Oscar N. Schjerven

Samuel T. Slawitsky

† Frank O. Wood

**First Lieutenants**

John L. Anderson

William J. Clark

† Roger K. Eastman

Kenneth W. Glenn

Herman H. Harder

Ward R. Imes

Sidney K. Jones

† Robert E. Pennell

† Keith K. Richardson

\* James A. Rollins

Ewing W. Stephens

† Thomas Van Alyea

*Second Lieutenant*

Allan V. Arragon  
Henry V. Burgee  
Albert G. Miller

*Battalion Sergeant Major*

Robert C. Gardner  
Harold H. Williams

*First Sergeants*

† Lindsay Fairweather  
Albert H. Gastreich  
† Arthur B. Giesen  
William Gillam  
Norman D. Hooker  
† Arthur H. Hurlock  
† Fred Krumpeck  
† Harry A. Sullivan

*Colonel Sergeant*

Walter E. Horner

*Sergeants*

† Burton O. Bidwell  
Henry H. Buchim  
Elmer Churchill  
† George E. Clarke  
James Clegg  
George E. Colwell  
\* Harry G. Duntemann  
Thomas A. Fisk  
George Fyfe  
Waldo P. Fuller  
Henry Gadske  
† Brice C. Henderson  
Edwin J. Henderson  
† Dean R. Herringshaw  
Anton N. Jensen  
† Morris P. Jones  
Richard L. Kapsa  
John B. Kelly  
Owen J. Lee  
† Vernon F. Leesche  
Harvey F. Long  
Harry G. Lunteman  
Clark H. Lynn  
John R. Maderia  
\* George R. McCamey  
Howard P. McDonald  
Arthur McEvans  
Arthur R. Miller  
Charles A. Mohr  
† Roy H. Morris  
Grover D. Motherwell  
Earle Nessler  
Daniel F. Parker  
Carl C. Phelps  
William T. Seaborn  
Warren P. Sherman  
Edward B. Spearing  
Penno Storm

Raymond Tilley

† Leland G. Wesley  
William B. Winter

*Corporals*

Boris Antin  
Karl H. Anderson  
Bennie Anderson  
Raymond P. Batsinger  
Spencer W. Beehmer  
† Harry Bertessa  
Franklin L. Bishop  
Adna H. Bowen  
Donald H. Brownlee  
Thomas W. Butler  
Lawrence N. Clausen  
John V. Cowling  
John P. Crowley  
† Leo J. Donovan  
Charles W. Duffey  
† Aubrey C. Flood  
Don Glasel  
Orville C. Green  
Carl Grotnes  
† Fred Hatch  
Sam H. Harris  
Irwin A. Holtz  
† Frank I. Johnson  
J. Raymond Knighton  
Edgar R. Lawton  
Frank L. Lupe  
Daniel B. Martin  
Duncan R. McVicker  
Walter W. Moore  
† Raymond J. O'Leary  
Leon J. O'Reilly  
Larry Parsons  
Harry Price  
† Harold F. Rapp  
Clinton L. Rice  
Henry E. Stefan  
Richard J. Styles  
Caspar Swenholt  
Thomas G. Wheeler  
Richard G. Whipple  
Edward A. White  
Edward J. Young

*Chief Mechanics*

Paul Auringer  
Alf Nelson  
John P. O'Ryan  
John T. Reilley  
Andrew B. Weyer

*Sadler*

† James H. Brown  
John M. Sabin

*Cook*

Robert Burns  
Fred R. Dockstader

**Horseshoer**

James J. Maloney

**Privates, First Class**

Thomas F. Airth  
 Waldemar H. Alexander  
 Elmer R. Anderson  
 Oscar W. Barnett  
 Peter P. Bobroske  
 Fred Dalkenberg  
 Clinton W. Favinger  
 Alexander F. Foley  
 John D. Foraciari  
 Joseph Galvin  
 Herbert Gustafson  
 Paul Hagerty  
 Edgar S. Irwin  
 Bert T. Juberg  
 † Robert J. Kay  
 Frederic R. King  
 William M. Kirchoff  
 Willard K. Lasher  
 William Lobdell  
 Joseph A. Lyman  
 Frederick R. McMurray  
 Patrick A. O'Hern  
 James P. Phillips  
 Harry V. Pond  
 William Ruehl  
 Harold F. Scott  
 David Smart  
 Alfred R. Waldpole  
 Charles Williams  
 Louis Woldman

**Privates**

Wilbur Beeler

Doar G. Bell

Louis Bergman

John W. Burlingame

Jacob Burre

Stearns Burrows

Thomas J. Carmody

† Herman B. Cohen

Edward Conners

Michael J. Coyne

Raymond J. Crowley

Oliver Fahrenbach

George F. Hadd

Karl A. Kessenich

Arthur Koffman

William Ledwell

Harry Deter

Richard Lye

Otto C. Mallock

Floyd Martin

Patrick McEnasney

Michael McHall

Samuel H. McKee

Douglas Merry

Walter E. Minol

Birger F. Myholm

† Marvin G. Paulsen

Theodore Pritiken

Arthur Sallitt

Victor D. Summer

Harry L. Titus

Raymond Walsh

Arthur F. Walters

\* Richard G. Whipple

Glenn H. Winters

John F. Zegermacher

## OFFICERS OF 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY DURING PERIOD OF COMBAT SERVICE

**Colonel**

Milton J. Foreman

**Lieutenant Colonel**

Frank R. Schwengel

**Majors**

Harold P. Goodnow

Leroy E. Nelson

**Captains**

Leon E. Cutter  
 Rupert D. Donovan  
 Marshall Field  
 George M. Hepple  
 Harry Hill  
 Kent A. Hunter  
 Samuel T. Lawson  
 John W. McCarthy  
 Jewett D. Matthews  
 Robert E. Myhrman

William H. Neblett

Charles A. Plamondon

Lawrence V. Regan

Edward F. Rice, Chaplain

William G. Rosier

Clyde L. Savage

Oscar N. Schjerven

Frank O. Wood

**First Lieutenants**

John L. Anderson

Michael J. Cherry

William J. Clark

Roger K. Eastman

Kenneth W. Glenn

Herman H. Harder

Don M. Hawley

Sydney K. Jones

Latimer A. Johns (deceased)

George E. McEvers (later Captain)

Frank J. McNeil

Robert C. Meleney  
 Robert E. Pennell  
 Keith K. Richardson  
 James A. Rollins  
 Howard M. Savage, V. C.  
 Joseph P. Skeehan  
 Ewing W. Stephens  
 Ralph J. Syfan  
 Thomas Van Alyea  
 Harold A. Wascher  
 George R. Weeks

*Second Lieutenants*

Knowlton L. Ames  
 Loyal P. Bailey  
 Henry V. Burgee  
 Elmer D. Calvin  
 E. P. Deutsch  
 Elmore J. DeWitt  
 Carl H. Doehling  
 Francis J. Downing  
 Donald R. Gooding  
 Jacob W. Hartman  
 Edward D. Hicks, Jr.

Leslie A. Hicks  
 Albert G. Miller  
 H. Harper Moulton  
 Charles J. O'Neill  
 Arthur S. Patrick  
 Maurice V. Peasley  
 Frank Pickell  
 Safford Quintard  
 Paul H. Rogers  
 Lucius M. Sargent  
 Dan E. Scheuren, Jr.  
 John Sherman  
 Charles K. Templeton  
 Leslie S. Tice  
 August Unfug

*Medical Corps, Attached*

Major Edmund T. Douglas, M. C.  
 Captain James F. Musser, M. C.  
 Captain Erwin S. Hottinger, M. C.  
 Captain Robert G. Carper, D. C.  
 Captain Victor Y. Coulter, D. C.  
 First Lieutenant Raymond C. Coulson,  
 V. C.

OFFICERS WHO SERVED WITH REGIMENT BUT NOT DURING COMBAT SERVICE

*Lieutenant Colonels*

Walter J. Fisher (later commanding 108th  
 Ammunition Train)  
 Robert R. McCormick (later Colonel,  
 Field Artillery)  
 Wallace H. Whigam

*Major*

Harry D. Orr (later Colonel, 108th Sani-  
 tary Train)

*Captains*

J. Leland Bass (later Major, Q. M. C.)  
 Franklin Dean (later Major)  
 George E. Faugsted  
 Robert J. Gay, M. C. (later Major)  
 John A. Holabird (later Lieutenant Colonel,  
 123rd Field Artillery)  
 Joseph Mattes (deceased)  
 Don M. Phelps  
 Percy Shannon  
 Harold Squires (later Major)

*First Lieutenants*

C. O. Anderson  
 Charles Christy

Theodore N. Fisher (later Captain)  
 Edwin Fiebig  
 Joseph W. Gastreich  
 Ward R. Imes  
 Herbert C. Lyness (later Captain)  
 John B. Pherigo (later Captain)  
 Raymond B. Roos  
 Einer V. Schjerven (later Captain)

*Second Lieutenants*

James J. Albert (later First Lieutenant)  
 Charles E. Allendorf  
 Allan V. Arragon  
 Sigurd A. Benson (later First Lieutenant)  
 Harry A. Burgerman  
 William P. Delihant (later First Lieuten-  
 ant)  
 Frank P. Gerhardt  
 John K. Houlihan  
 Frederick J. Lippert  
 George W. Miller  
 Peter A. Miller (later First Lieutenant)  
 Tom G. Milton (later First Lieutenant)  
 Troy L. Parker (later Captain, A. S.)  
 John E. Wolfe (later First Lieutenant)



## SOME OFFICERS OF THE 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY

Top row: Captains Marshall Field, J. D. Mathews, Joseph Mattes, Oscar N. Schjerven.  
 Second Row: First Lieutenants Theodore N. Fisher, Frank J. McNeil, Robert C. Meleney.  
 Third row: First Lieutenant J. B. Pherigo, Second Lieutenants J. J. Albert, C. E. Allendorf.  
 Bottom row: Second Lieutenants S. A. Benson, H. A. Burgerman, F. P. Gerhardt, M. V. Peasley.



COLONEL CHARLES G. DAVIS  
Commanding the 123rd Field Artillery.



THE CHURCH AT GESNES

## The 123rd Field Artillery

COLONEL CHARLES G. DAVIS, EDITOR

BY FIRST LIEUTENANT CLARENCE C. CLUTE



**F**EW regiments of the national guard can boast of service as lengthy or as varied as that which the 123rd Field Artillery rendered in the World War. Fate crowded an amazing variety of trying duties into the twenty-seven months intervening between the regiment's mobilization in March, 1917, and the muster-out in June, 1919.

The regiment's war service began with infantry duty in Illinois. The difficult task of converting an infantry organization into an artillery unit followed. Long periods of drill, weary hikes, constant changes and trying waits preceded the supreme test in actual battle. After the armistice the regiment had another long wait before sailing for home.

Altogether, that service was a severe test of loyalty and courage. The fact that the regiment faced all troubles and dangers cheerfully and courageously would be dis-



tion enough if the 123rd did not have more definite proofs that its behavior at all times was in keeping with the regimental traditions established on the battlefields of Mexico and strengthened in the Civil War and the war with Spain.

The regiment was the Sixth Illinois Infantry when it entered active service in response to the President's call of March 25, 1917. In compliance with orders issued by Colonel Charles G. Davis, the several units assembled at their armories on March 26, ready for duty.

Second in command under Colonel Davis was Lieutenant Colonel John W. Reig of Moline. The units answering the call, their home stations and their commanding officers were:

#### FIRST BATTALION

Major Morton C. Porter, Alexis, commanding.  
First Lieutenant John A. Bickel, Chicago, adjutant.  
Company A, Rock Island, First Lieutenant William A. Scott.  
Company B, Aledo, Captain Oscar E. Carlstrom.  
Company C, Galesburg, Captain Alfred E. Miller.  
Company D, Oak Park, Captain George W. Armbrust.

#### SECOND BATTALION

Major Edward H. Dunavin, Rock Island, commanding.  
First Lieutenant Clarence P. Reid, Dixon, adjutant.  
Company E, Sterling, Captain J. Frank Wahl.  
Company F, Moline, Captain Herbert B. McKahin.  
Company G, Dixon, Captain Elijah J. Soper.  
Company H, Monmouth, Captain John M. Evey.

#### THIRD BATTALION

Major Ralph W. Cavanaugh, Oak Park, commanding.  
First Lieutenant John C. Bohan, Oak Park, adjutant.  
Company I, Morrison, Captain Roy M. Hawes.  
Company K, Kewanee, Captain Ernest E. Stull.  
Company L, Freeport, Captain William W. Warn.  
Company M, Chicago Heights, Captain Harris F. Hall.

Machine Gun Company, Geneseo, Captain Frank J. Wahlheim.  
Supply Company, Galena, Captain Leo. T. Lebrun.  
Headquarters Company, Oak Park, Captain Charles Benson.  
Medical Detachment, Oak Park, Major Frederick C. Miller.  
Chaplain, Captain John W. Ferris.

On the day of mobilization Company A and Company F were sent to the Rock Island arsenal for guard duty. They were re-enforced the next day by Companies E, G and H. The other companies remained at their armories until April 1, when they were assembled at the State Fair grounds in Springfield.

Snow began to fall shortly after the regiment had been assembled. The men suffered intensely for lack of blankets until Adjutant General Frank S. Dickson and Governor Frank O. Lowden, the latter as a private citizen, came to the rescue with blankets, heating apparatus, canvas and medical supplies.

The regiment was quartered in the Dome Building and in the Swine Building on the State Fair grounds for two weeks. Then pyramidal tents were issued, and the regiment was established in Camp Lowden west of the fair grounds.

In April Companies D and K were sent to guard government property at East St. Louis, and Company L was added to the garrison at the Rock Island arsenal. The remaining companies carried on drill at Camp Lowden, encouraged by the enlistment, in a body, of the Augustana College band from Rock Island.

Race riots in East St. Louis caused the hasty dispatch of Companies C and I to reënforce Companies D and K in July. A few days later Company M was sent to Scott Field, Belleville, for guard duty and Company B was assigned to similar service at Chanute Field at Rantoul. Before the end of the month the machine gun company was sent to East St. Louis, leaving only the headquarters and supply companies at Camp Lowden.

The Rock Island arsenal guard was relieved on August 14. Companies A and L were sent to East St. Louis, but the other units of the guard reported back to headquarters in Springfield and began intensive infantry drill in a trench system which had been dug on the hills adjoining the camp.

Reports that the regiment was soon to join the Prairie Division at Camp Logan and that it would be converted into an artillery organization were heard late in the summer. The rumors, so far as they concerned the proposed transformation of the regiment, caused uneasiness. The men preferred infantry service to duty with which they were unfamiliar, and it was with some misgivings that the regiment entrained, on September 8, for Texas.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. REIG

A week later divisional orders verified the unpopular rumors. At midnight of September 19 the famous old Sixth Illinois Infantry passed out of existence and a new regiment, the 123rd U. S. Field Artillery, was born.

On paper the new organization was a regiment of six batteries equipped with horse-drawn 6-inch howitzers. Actually it was a crowd of infantrymen, awaiting the training and equipment needed to transform them into artillerymen.

The reorganization of the regiment was not difficult. Companies were paired to form batteries. Companies C and I became Battery A; Companies B and E, Battery B; Companies G and M, Battery C; Companies D and H, Battery D; Companies K and L, Battery E; Companies A and F, Battery F. The machine gun company became the nucleus of the 122nd Machine Gun Battalion and still later became the 108th Trench Mortar Battery, attached to the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, of which the 123rd was a part.

The paper transformation was easy; the actual remaking of the regiment was a much more difficult task. An organization of doughboys had to be turned into a seasoned artillery outfit—and there was no equipment.

The 123rd was not to be discouraged, however, by a shortage of horses and guns. The men made harnesses of sticks and strings and used each other as horses. For guns they used wooden saw horses, until dummy guns not unlike those used in camouflage overseas were available. When the possibilities of the wooden guns had been exhausted the War Department provided the regiment with a platoon of venerable 3.2-inch field pieces which had served long and well in the Spanish-American war. Just before these veterans were due to collapse they were succeeded by a battery of 4.7-inch howitzers which actually could be fired, if one were not in a hurry or particular as to direction.



WHEN THE OLD SIXTH ILLINOIS WAS AT CAMP LOGAN

These sketchy acquisitions of material were accompanied by changing orders. By official direction the regiment abandoned light field pieces for heavy ones, then switched from horse-drawn to motorized equipment and back again. Luckily all the equipment which figured in these changes was theoretical only, so that only paper was lost.

Despite the difficulties it encountered, the regiment made rapid progress. By May of 1918, when the entire Thirty-third Division was ordered overseas, the 123rd Field Artillery was a regiment of gunners in fact as well as theory, thanks to the determined spirit of officers and men.

The artillery brigade moved from Camp Logan to Camp Merritt, with the rest of the division. While the 123rd was in this camp, awaiting sailing orders, the regiment was commended highly in a report made by the assistant port inspector at Camp Merritt. Following is an extract from this report:

"The attention of the commanding general and of the War Department is especially invited to the uniformly smart and soldierly bearing of the officers and men of this regiment, commanded by Colonel Charles G. Davis, 123rd Field Artillery. This regiment excels by far, in this respect, any organization that has passed under my eyes since being on duty at this camp. It is never necessary to ask one of these officers or men what organization he belongs to, as the answer is indicated by the smartness of the salute."

The artillery brigade moved from Camp Logan to Camp Merritt, N. J., and on May 25 the 123rd boarded the transport Scotian at Hoboken. The Scotian sailed the next day as part of a convoy of thirteen ships. Liverpool was reached thirteen days later, and on June 8 the regiment went into camp at Knotty Ash, England. The channel was crossed on the night of June 11 on the transports Viper and H. S. Miller. The regiment disembarked at Havre, spent a day in a rest camp, and then was sent to Ornans, a beautiful spot in the Jura mountains in the Department of Doubs.

Motor trucks distributed the regiment to training quarters in the vicinity, the first battalion going to Fallerans, Battery C to Etraye and the rest of the regiment remaining with the headquarters detachment at Epinoy.

Most of the officers and one-third of the enlisted personnel were ordered to highly developed brigade artillery schools for special instruction soon after



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN A.  
HOLABIRD



MAJOR RALPH W. CAVENAUGH  
Commanding the Third Battalion,  
123rd Field Artillery.

the regiment had established itself. There they absorbed, in six weeks, a course of training which previously had not been given in less than two months.

Other officers and men, meanwhile, had been sent into neighboring departments of France to purchase horses. When the instruction course ended, therefore, the regiment was ready to try out the French artillery methods for which American practices had been abandoned.

On July 26 the regiment was sent to Valdahon, to occupy barracks instead of billets for the first time since its arrival in France. A little later the batteries were equipped with the famous Schneider 155 mm. howitzers, and range practice was started.

Although rain fell during almost all of the training period, the regi-

ment quickly acquired proficiency, and in August was judged ready for active service. When the order sending the regiment to the line was received the men hailed it joyfully. The departure from the artillery camp on August 22 was one of the big events in the 123rd's service.

After marching down the valley of the Doubs to Besançon, the men entrained and were taken to Pagny-sur-Meuse. They hiked again to Foug, a little beyond Toul and near the fighting front. There they had their first taste of real war. Enemy aviators greeted them with a salvo of bombs which caused a mad scramble for shelter.

The next night the regiment marched forward over miles and miles of road jammed with advancing and withdrawing artillery. The flashes of guns at the front could be seen and occasionally flares illuminated the plodding columns.



ONE OF THE 155 MM. HOWITZERS

At dawn the regiment went into concealment in the Boucq woods. There it remained for several days, until ordered to advance into the Forêt de la Reine and establish gun emplacements.

A more interesting part of the brigade sector in the St. Mihiel salient could not have been found. The regimental post of command was at Beaumont, not far from Seicheprey, famous as the scene of the raid in which the Germans cap-



IN THE RUINS OF BEAUMONT

tured their first American prisoners in April, 1918. Directly north, beyond a small valley, was the bald peak of Mont Sec, from which the Germans could watch every movement for miles about.

Because of this enemy vantage point the task of the 123rd Artillery was extremely hazardous. Guns and ammunition had to be brought forward under the enemy's eyes. Heavy rains increased the difficulty. Nevertheless the regiment established itself. Ammunition was dragged through heavy mire, often knee-deep, until all was ready for the attack.



THE BALD SLOPE OF MONT SEC



REGIMENTAL POST OF COMMAND IN BOUCONVILLE

To the first battalion, commanded by Major Dunavin, was assigned the duty of supporting the Thirty-ninth French Colonial Division and battering Mont Sec, especially the observation posts on the summit. The battalion was posted in Bouconville, near the edge of Etange de Giron-delle.

The second battalion, at that time commanded by Captain Bickel in the absence of Major Bohan, who was in a hospital, took position in the cemetery in the south edge of Rambucourt. Its mission was to support the attack of the First Division and to help in covering the Thirty-ninth French Colonials.

While digging gun pits the men of the second battalion had no other protection than camouflage nets and enemy aviators soon spotted them. A platoon of 150's opened fire after several shots from long-range guns. The first shell fired struck the ammunition dump, killing Sergeant Marion B. Fletcher and wounding three other men of Battery D. The enemy fired at least 280 shells that afternoon, evidently hoping to demolish the battery. Eighteen hundred rounds were touched off by a shell which struck a store of powder, but there were no additional casualties.

The third battalion, commanded by Major Cavanaugh, was stationed in the rear of the village of Bouconville, with orders to support the Thirty-ninth French Colonials, cover the left flank of the First Division and fire into the area of the Forty-second Division.

The order to commence firing was flashed a little after midnight on September 12, and the greatest artillery bombardment the world had yet seen began. Subsequent American attacks were to be supported by heavier fire, but till then nothing like the pounding of that September morning had been seen.



MAJOR JOHN A. BICKEL  
Commanding the First Battalion.

What the results were, the world knows. The flattening of the St. Mihiel salient was an achievement which thrilled the allied nations. The artillery's part in the victory may be judged from the fact that the veteran infantrymen of the First Division later referred to their rapid and steady advance as "a dough-boy's parade."



POSITION OF BATTERY B IN REAR OF BOUCONVILLE

The 123rd Field Artillery emerged from the battle with a citation from Major General Summerall, commanding the First Division. General Summerall praised the regiment for its devotion to duty and its efficiency in supporting the infantry and advancing over difficult roads. His praise was doubly welcome as he was an artillery officer.

The 123rd Field Artillery had advanced to positions near Xivray and Marvoisin after the first day's fighting, but the progress of the American forces continued so rapidly that on September 14 the brigade was relieved. The 123rd moved to the Frassard woods for a day's rest, and then joined the other units of the brigade in a hike toward the sector northwest of Verdun.

The march lasted through four nights. The first lap carried the regiment to a hiding place in the Koeur woods. The next morning camp was established at Pierrefitte, where the bandmen resurrected their instruments and put on an impromptu celebration. The concert heartened the men. They howled defiance at "Heinie" and eagerly resumed their march at night.



GUN POSITION OF BATTERY D  
In rear of Rambucourt, September 12.

Dawn found the column in Beuzée, a shell-torn village which had been held for two hours by the Germans early in the war. Beuzée is on the banks of





**THE CAUSEWAY NORTH OF BOUCONVILLE**  
Over which the 123rd and the 124th passed under fire.

the Aire, and that afternoon most of the men gave up sleep in order to enjoy a bath in the river.

The next night's march carried the regiment to the Waly Woods, on the right of the Forêt d'Argonne, in position for the coming battle. The batteries went into echelon, and the work of getting the guns ready began.

The brigade's new sector was a hot one. It faced the pivotal position on the Metz-Lille line, to defend which the Germans had established works regarded as almost impregnable. No other part of the famous Hindenburg system had stronger defenses than those opposite the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade.

Fearing that the Germans might expect an attack if they saw Americans opposite them, the divisional commanders ordered officers and men to wear



**THE MAIN STREET OF XIVRAY**

French uniforms when on reconnaissance. The patrols of the 123rd went out looking like poilus, but they brought back distinctly American reports, one corporal putting his judgment of the German defense in these words:

"No waits or delays in this next circus, men; something doing all the time."

By September 21, the regiment was in position, with the regimental post of command in the Forêt de Hesse and the battalions at strategic points. The second battalion, to which Major Bohan by this time had been able to return, was with the third in the northern edge of the wood. The first battalion was placed between the regimental post of command and La Cigalerie,



IN THE FORET DE HESSE

Gun positions of Battery D during the attack of September 26, 1918.

a high hill at the foot of which the infantry was entrenched. Captain Bickel was assigned to the first battalion as commander in place of Major Dunavin, who had been attached to headquarters as second in command of the regiment. To the right were the 155 mm. howitzers of the Thirty-sixth Battery of the Eighth French Field Artillery, completing the Davis grouping for the battle.

The attack opened with an intense bombardment, beginning shortly after midnight on September 26. The fire exceeded that of St. Mihiel in concentration and intensity, reaching a volume unparalleled in the war.

At dawn the infantry of the Ninety-first Division hopped over under cover of the 123rd's barrage and captured its early objectives easily. By 2 o'clock Véry, the day's objective, had been reached.



MAJOR JOHN C. BOHAN

The regiment was ready to follow the advancing infantry by 11 o'clock on the morning of the attack, but was ordered to remain in position until the following morning. When the advance did begin, it was harassed by enemy fire. Lieutenant John L. Riley was wounded by a fragment from a 150 mm. shell; Lieutenant Michael Cody was wounded in the jaw, and Battery F lost several men in killed and wounded. Despite his wounds, Lieutenant Riley refused to go to the rear, but accompanied the regiment, using crutches when compelled to walk.

The effects of the regiment's fire were soon noticeable. The ground had been made almost impassable. The howitzers had to be dragged over shattered roads, across fields full of shell holes, through a mass of crumbled stone where the village of Avocourt had stood, and along trails blown to pieces

by enemy mines. Men put their shoulders to the wheels to help the staggering horses, and at last the goal was reached. The regiment unlimbered at the Véry-Cheppy crossroads and went immediately into action.

A gap had been reported on either side of the Ninety-first Division. The liaison of the attacking infantry had been destroyed during the advance, and the enemy had an opening a kilometer wide on either flank of the division.



ON THE SLOPE OF LA CIGALERIE

The artillery's task was to hold that gap until the infantry could be re-aligned.

The cannoneers were ordered to work with rifles beside them, and small arms ammunition was issued to all men in anticipation of a rush of Germans through the broken line. Meanwhile the heaviest fire possible was concentrated on the danger spots.



BATTERY C'S POSITION IN THE FORET DE HESSE

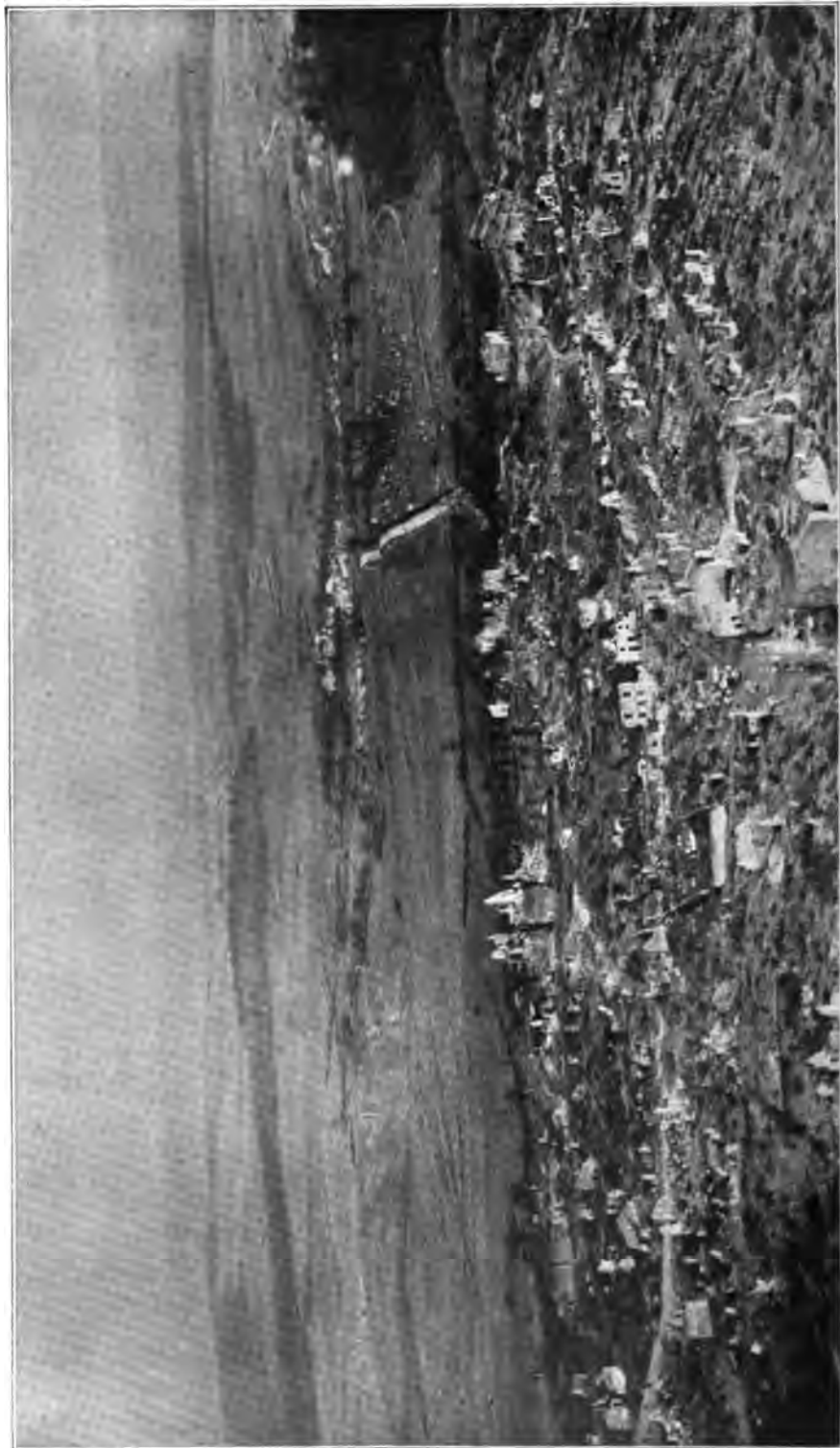
The regiment worked fiercely. All night a barrage was laid down on the gap to the left, where the Ninety-first and the Thirty-fifth Divisions had lost touch with each other, and heavy fire was directed against the enemy opposite the Thirty-fifth Division, which had met with desperate resistance. Every man did his utmost that night. All the ammunition which the supply trains could get forward was fired. One private, of whom civilian life had demanded nothing more strenuous than the playing of a piano in a Chicago cabaret, carried and washed 90-pound projectiles for ten hours without stopping.

Two days later the regiment moved forward again, passing through the ruins of Véry. The enemy concentrated fire on the obliterated village,



THE PANORAMA FROM LA CIGALIERE

Showing the terrain over which the Ninety-first Division advanced.



**MONTFAUCON, ONE OF THE GERMAN STRONGHOLDS IN THE ARGONNE**  
On the rim of the hill, in the square house at the right, the Crown Prince had his headquarters.

but the units of the regiment passed through unscathed by timing the fire and dashing ahead when a lull was due. By noon the whole organization had run the gauntlet and was in position to the right of a plank road just beyond the town, in a valley later to become known as "Hell's Valley."

The road stretched from Véry to Epinonville, branching off to the right to Montfaucon, where the German Crown Prince was ensconced during one of his futile drives against Verdun. Montfaucon could be seen from the regimental post of command, which was about a quarter of a mile northeast of Véry. Battalion and battery posts of command were lined up and down the valley, the most distant being within five minutes' walk of regimental headquarters.

By this time the regiment had been reënforced by the 301st French Field Artillery, with three batteries of 155 mm. howitzers, and the 454th French Field Artillery, with three batteries of 105 mm. guns. This concentration of heavy guns made the group a powerful one, whose destructive fire enabled the Thirty-second Division to capture and pass the Bois de la Morine and the Bois de Chene Sec, woods northwest of Gesnes which had resisted all previous attacks and were holding up the entire advance.

The presence of the French regiments was encouraging to the 123rd, not only because of the assistance the poilus rendered, but also because the



AT THE VERY-CHEPPY CROSSROADS



THE ROAD WHICH SEPARATES THE BOIS DE CHEPPY FROM THE BOIS DE VÉRY

efficiency of the Illinois gunners compared so favorably with that of the veteran Frenchmen.

Although the allied artillery was steadily breaking down the enemy defenses, the 123rd was sorely harassed by hostile planes in "Hell's Valley." Enemy aviators were in sight almost continually during the day, despite the excellent work of American flyers, including Captain Rickenbacker's pursuit squadron. At night bombing planes ranged over the lines, making the use of any kind of light impossible.

The regiment suffered heavy casualties in the raids of enemy airmen, armed with machine guns. The planes helped the German artillery, too, by making observations which kept the batteries almost constantly under fire.



THE TOWN OF VERY AND THE VALLEY WHICH LIES BETWEEN IT AND  
EPINONVILLE

Panel stations were "spotted" and destroyed in this way, and every day the batteries were "bracketed" by enemy shell fire.

The men stuck to their guns despite the enemy's activity, steadily hurling projectiles toward the German lines. Lieutenant Leon R. Henry, while acting as executive officer of Battery C, almost lost his uniform, which was torn half away by shell fragments, but he escaped injury and remained at his post.

Instances of extreme heroism were numerous. Medical corps men went up the valley slopes, in full view of the enemy, to carry wounded to the rear. Lieutenant Harry A. Torson of Battery B ran a gauntlet of machine gun fire in order to establish an observation post. Lieutenant Martin F. Trued, with his telephone detail, braved heavy fire repeatedly to keep the communication lines open, an act for which he later was cited. Lieutenant Joseph



GESNES, ONE OF THE BRIGADE OBJECTIVES

L. Shaw and Corporal Salisbury, of the intelligence department, rescued five wounded machine gunners in the face of fire from an Austrian "whizz bang" on the edge of the village of Romagne. Major Moss of the medical corps was wounded while running to the aid of two men of an engineers' battalion who had been shot down in an enemy bombardment.

Those acts of individual heroism typify the courage of the entire regiment, which faced the enemy's desperate attacks without the slightest relaxation of morale. A more loyal and willing organization could not have been found.

Finally the infantry was relieved, the Thirty-second Division taking the place of the Ninety-first and the First moving into the lines held by the Thirty-fifth. No relief, however, came for the artillery. The entire Fifty-eighth Brigade was kept in the line until October 12, protecting the infantry units as they changed places, and supporting the advance.

A new move forward had been ordered on the 12th, and the 123rd was on the march when fresh instructions were received, sending the regiment back for a rest. Even the withdrawal was



MAJOR ELI B. MOSS





#### OFFICERS OF THE FIRST BATTALION

Standing: Lieutenants Shields and Powell, Major Bickel, Captain Patchin, Major Dunavin, Captain Parker, Lieutenants Swedberg, Cross and Syfan, Captains Pratt and Kimbro, Lieutenant Hootman, Captain Torson.

Seated: Lieutenants Cederburg, Tice, Clark and Rule, Captain Bereth, Lieutenant Temple.

difficult. So many horses had been killed that it was impossible to take all the guns out at once. Part of the equipment was moved in the morning. The following evening the drivers and horses returned for the rest.

It was a weary, but dogged regiment that marched slowly to the rear. The spirit of the organization was eloquently expressed in the curt answer of a private whom a pioneer major met at Avocourt on the way to rest billets.

"Did they give you more than you could stand?" the major asked of the mud-spattered, plodding private.

"Nope," said the private, "they didn't give us more than we could stand; they just gave us all we wanted."

And no wonder! The men had been exposed to enemy shell fire for twenty-one consecutive days. All gun positions had been in the open in every phase of the battle, giving the men no other shelter than their spaded "fox holes." For sixteen days the regiment had attacked, firing 30,000 rounds, or more than thirteen tons of high explosives.

Two days were spent in resting at Recicourt. The regiment then moved back to Ville-sur-Cousances, where, after a week's rest, it passed in review before Major General McNair. The general gave the regiment highest commendation for the unusually good condition of its matériel and horses.

Further proof of the regiment's standing came a little later when the 123rd was selected from the entire A. E. F. as the one best fitted for motor-



#### OFFICERS OF THE SECOND BATTALION

Front row: Lieutenants Blazer and Henry, Captain Johnson, Lieutenant Merwin, Major Bohan, Battalion Sergeant Major Merrill, Lieutenant McCarthy.

Middle row: Lieutenants Wolfner and Mitchell, First Sergeant Nevius, Lieutenants Polson and Conner, First Sergeant Frantz, Lieutenants Coltrin and Lawson.

Back row: Lieutenants Fairty and Berg.

ization. At that time there was only one other regiment of motorized artillery, the Eleventh Field Artillery, in the American army.

The regiment's horses were given to the 122nd and 124th Regiments, which had been crippled by heavy losses of animals, and the Eleventh Field Artillery filled the gap in the Fifty-eighth Brigade. The 123rd entrained at Souilly for Doulaincourt, expecting to be motorized and returned immediately to the front. Just before the regiment left, General Todd addressed the following memorandum to Colonel Davis:

"The brigade commander desires to express to the officers and men of the 123rd Field Artillery his appreciation of their singular loyalty to the brigade shown on all occasions, by prompt and unquestioning obedience of orders, scrupulous regard to the necessity of keeping animals and matériel always in the best of condition and the faithful performance of all the arduous duties consequent to two military operations of the first importance.

"He views with great regret the detachment of the regiment from the brigade at this time, but regards its selection for motorization before many other similar units as a tribute to its efficiency. Its work during the period of motorization will be followed with keen interest and its return to the brigade eagerly awaited."



#### OFFICERS OF THE THIRD BATTALION

Standing: Lieutenant Dexter, Captain Swain, Lieutenants Hinkhouse, White and Ady, Captain Riley, Lieutenant Wiseman, First Sergeant Hartung, Captain Swedberg, Battalion Sergeant Major Fanning, Captain Selover.

Seated: Lieutenants Sealy, Cody, Lewis, and Heath, First Sergeant Atcheson, Lieutenant Nelson, Major Cavanaugh, Lieutenants Cable and Rogers.

Just as the new equipment was being issued, however, the armistice was signed. In a way, the news was a disappointment to the regiment. The 123rd had just been reëquipped, the men were in remarkably fine physical condition, and battle experience had fitted the organization for even better service than it had rendered in previous campaigns.

Until Christmas the regiment remained in the vicinity of Doulaincourt, devoting half of each day to drill and half to athletics and the care of matériel. Then the new motors were tested on a trip to Stenay, to join the other regiments of the brigade.

On January 7, the entire brigade moved northward toward Luxemburg. The 123rd, with its motor equipment, easily made the trip in twelve hours, leading the other artillery regiments back to the infantrymen of the Thirty-third Division, already quartered in Luxemburg. The several units of the regiment were quartered in the villages of Lintgen, Prettingen, Imbringen, Lorenzweiler and Blascheid, and became part of the Army of Occupation.

The regiment's morale did not relax, now that the fighting had ended. The men performed their duties so conscientiously that in the divisional motor show at Diekirch, one of the big events of the winter, the 123rd won an easy victory because of the excellent condition of its matériel. Later



SOME OF BATTERY C'S 155 MM. HOWITZERS

the regiment won from the Twenty-first Field Artillery in the Sixth Corps motor show in the city of Luxemburg. The regimental vaudeville troop won honors in a tour of the division, and the band was selected in March to represent the division in the leave area at Nimes. Secretary of War Baker and General Pershing inspected the regiment in the divisional review on April 22, the last formal parade of the Illinois men before their homeward journey.

The 123rd entrained for Brest on its homeward journey, on April 29. A week later all units of the division had reached the port, but it was not until May 16 that the 123rd embarked on the transport America. The Statue of Liberty was sighted on May 24, just one day less than a year after she had watched the regiment sail eastward.

There was another weary wait at Camp Mills, L. I., but on June 3 the regiment entrained for Chicago, where it paraded with the other units of the brigade. On June 9 the 123rd Field Artillery passed into history at Camp Grant, after more than two years of hard service. It had been on active duty longer than any other Illinois National Guard regiment, and it had performed, with credit to itself, the state and the country, its duties.



ONE OF THE TEN-TON TRACTORS

## COLONEL DAVIS' FAREWELL ORDER

The commanding officer took farewell of his men with the following order:

Soldiers of the Regiment:

It was not given to address all the officers and men collectively nor to say farewell individually. I cannot have you depart without expression.

Upon the President's call, the regiment entered federal service on March 26th, 1917. As the 6th Illinois Infantry, its units guarded public and private property from threatened destruction and restored and preserved law and order. During this period, no destruction of any property was done while under guard of these units.

On September 20th, 1917, the regiment became the 123rd Field Artillery. You trained without remission until departure overseas in May, 1918. In the Jura Mountains of France, you continued intensive training until you marched to the front.

You endured the battles of the St. Mihiel Offensive and of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and the marches and maneuvers consequent of those battles. You always accomplished your missions, always fired as ordered, always maneuvered as required. Such was your conduct that never was explanation required but commendation was received for every action in which the regiment participated.

By your conduct in the billets, the inhabitants became your friends and upon evacuation from time to time, your departure was with the well wishes and the tears of the people. Their letters and inquiries of your safety followed you through the battles.

Always, the condition of the matériel, the animals, the motor transport and the soldierly bearing and discipline of the individual brought commendation. In all things, you established and maintained a standard that for excellence distinguished the regiment throughout its service in the expeditionary forces.

These statements are not mine alone, but are the substance of citations, letters and remarks the most of which have been published to you.

Yours is the honor and pride of having achieved this splendid record, mine is the pride and honor of having commanded such soldiers.

We salute our dead proudly, we sympathize with those dear to them and, whenever necessary, extend a helping hand.

The regiment officially ceases to be this day, but you march on through history with your standards united with the colors of our regiment of past wars, bearing proudly a devotion to duty, a loyalty to country, a will to victory that will be a cherished tradition and an inspiration for future generations.

My most sincere and final desire is that each, with the strong courage and clear devotion held as soldiers, may always sustain the high ideals of our citizenship and steadfastly maintain the principles of our government; and that prosperity and happiness may be for each of you to the fullest.

CHARLES G. DAVIS,  
Colonel U. S. F. A.



THE CHURCH ON MONTFAUCON

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY, WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

### *Second Lieutenant*

William R. Euard

Charles B. Morgan

Peter L. Strong

### *Sergeant Major*

Robert E. Fitzgibbons

### *Privates, First Class*

William F. Heinze

John L. Hughes

Arthur J. Inman

Albert H. Mayo

Elmer Vogel

### *Sergeants*

Marion B. Fletcher

Charles E. Gold

### *Corporals*

Carl E. Westlund

Fred C. Yde

### *Mechanic*

John A. Wakeland

### *Privates*

Lloyd Elliott

Harry M. Helmick

Matthew A. Herman

Carl L. Jorgensen

William F. Keane

Archie Latourette

Clifford C. Miller

Horace F. Ort

Henry J. Ziegenhein

### *Wagoners*

Alfred L. Goodwin

Artie C. Meusch

## DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

### *Lieutenant Colonel*

John A. Holabird

Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf

### *Second Lieutenant*

Edgar J. Rule

Distinguished Service Cross

Croix de Guerre

### *Private*

Horace F. Ort

Distinguished Service Cross

## CITATIONS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

### *Second Lieutenant Edgar J. Rule:*

Near Courboin, on July 14-15, 1918, Lieutenant Rule, then a sergeant of the Tenth Field Artillery, on telephone detail, fearlessly repaired lines under heavy fire of gas and high explosive shells until the lines were cut beyond repair, when he volunteered and carried messages through the bombardment.

### *Private Horace F. Ort, Battery C, deceased:*

In the V ry-Epinonville Valley, northwest of Verdun, October 4, 1918, Private Ort volunteered to carry an important message to a position under heavy enemy fire, realizing in advance that he was exposing himself to unusual dangers in this undertaking. He continued in his task until killed by an enemy shell.



PRIVATE HORACE F. ORT

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY WHO WERE CITED FOR  
GALLANTRY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

Others received citations from General Bell.



LIEUTENANT EDGAR J. RULE

*Colonel*

Charles G. Davis

*Lieutenant Colonel*

\* Joseph A. Rogers

*Captain*

† Harry E. Hearn

*First Lieutenant*

† Leon R. Henry

*First Sergeant*

† Samuel Stone

*Sergeants*

† Ralph T. Johnson

† John P. Kinnerk

† Harry W. Scoggan

*Corporals*

† John Goad

† William P. Oliver

\* Gerald L. Rossman

*Privates, First Class*

† Fred C. Mose

*Privates*

† Karl A. Gillig

† Horace F. Ortt

† Charles K. Priestman

Floyd Watt

ORGANIZATION OF 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY DURING ACTIVE OPERATIONS,  
INCLUDING ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF THAT PERIOD

*Colonel*

Charles G. Davis, commanding Groupements and 123rd Field Artillery

*Lieutenant Colonels*

John A. Holabird, assigned to Twelfth Field Artillery, September 1, 1918

Joseph A. Rogers, reported for duty October 4; assigned to 124th Field Artillery, October 5, 1918

*Major*

Edward H. Dunavin, second in command after October 5, 1918

STAFF

*Major*

Eli B. Moss, Medical

*Captains*

Rubey J. Hamilton, Adjutant and Operations Officer

Frank C. McElvain, Personnel

*First Lieutenants*

Joseph A. Merrill (later Captain), Operations

Joseph L. Shaw, Intelligence

Martin F. Trued, Telephone

Edward D. Harris (later Captain), Munitions



## OFFICERS OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

Top row: Captains J. B. Bereth, O. E. Carlstrom, R. J. Hamilton, H. E. Hearn.  
 Second row: Captains L. G. Lewis, F. C. McElvain, J. A. Merrill, B. A. Parker.  
 Third row: Captains R. W. Pratt, J. L. Riley, H. R. Selover, H. D. Swain.  
 Bottom row: Lieutenants M. S. Ady, A. L. Cross, C. L. Dexter, R. A. Kimble.



Willard F. Larkin, Liaison  
Roy W. Merrifield, Chaplain

Roger Schlatter, French Artillery, attached  
Raymond Rose, 301st (French) Field Artil-  
lery, Liaison  
Ray M. Houdek, Band Leader

*Second Lieutenants*

Clarence C. Clute (later First Lieutenant),  
Radio  
Frederick E. Coyne (later First Lieutenant),  
Gas

*Interpreter*

André Kunzel, Chaplain French Army

FIRST BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS

*Captains*

John A. Bickel (later Major), Commanding  
Barton A. Parker, Adjutant

*First Lieutenant*

Roscoe W. Pratt (later Captain), Medical

*Second Lieutenants*

Ferdinand A. Cederburg, Radio and Muni-  
tions  
Edwin W. Swedberg, Telephone  
Ralph J. Syfan, Liaison

BATTERY A

*First Lieutenants*

Sidney A. Patchin (later Captain), Com-  
manding  
Ward R. Imes

*Second Lieutenants*

George R. McDonald  
Guy E. Temple (later First Lieutenant)

BATTERY B

*Captain*

James B. Bereth, Commanding

*First Lieutenants*

Albert L. Cross  
Harry A. Torson (later Captain)

*Second Lieutenants*

Harold M. Hootman  
Leslie S. Tice

SECOND BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS

*Major*

John C. Bohan, Commanding

*Captains*

Homer W. Johnson, Adjutant  
Harry E. Hearn, Medical

*Second Lieutenants*

Robert F. Polson, Radio and Munitions  
Herschel J. Blazer, Telephone  
Lewis F. Robinson, Liaison

BATTERY C

*Captain*

Howard R. Selover, Commanding

*First Lieutenants*

Victor A. Elmlad  
Leon R. Henry

*Second Lieutenants*

John H. Lawson (later First Lieutenant)  
Thomas T. Mackie

BATTERY D

*First Lieutenants*

Arthur V. Gair (later Captain), Command-  
ing  
Alexander C. Mitchell  
Charles L. Merwin

*Second Lieutenants*

John T. McCarthy (later First Lieutenant)  
Edgar S. Montague (later First Lieutenant)

THIRD BATTALION

HEADQUARTERS

*Major*

Ralph W. Cavanaugh, Commanding

*Captain*

N. Victor Franklin, Adjutant

*First Lieutenant*

John L. Riley (later Captain), Medical



## LIEUTENANTS OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

Top row: F. L. Heath, F. J. Hinkhouse, W. F. Larkin, L. K. Lewis.

Second Row: R. W. Merrifield, C. L. Merwin, A. C. Mitchell, Herbert J. Powell.

Third row: Frank H. Quinn, Joseph L. Shaw, C. C. Shields, Roy Tuchbreiter.

Bottom row: H. J. Blazer, F. A. Cederburg, Neal J. Coltrin, Harry C. Fairty.

*Second Lieutenants*

Byron H. L. Nelson, Radio and Munitions  
 William F. Sealy (later First Lieutenant),  
 Telephone  
 Michael Cody, Jr. (later First Lieutenant),  
 Liaison

**BATTERY E***Captain*

Harold D. Swain, Commanding

*First Lieutenants*

Ralph A. Kimble  
 Clyde L. Dexter

*Second Lieutenants*

William R. Euard  
 Carlos D. Wiseman

**BATTERY F***Captain*

Arthur V. Swedberg, Commanding

*First Lieutenants*

Merrill S. Ady  
 Chester L. Brundage

*Second Lieutenants*

Frederick L. Heath (later First Lieutenant)  
 William J. Anderson

**OTHER REGIMENTAL OFFICERS****HEADQUARTERS COMPANY***First Lieutenant*

Lloyd G. Lewis (later Captain), Commanding

**SUPPLY COMPANY***First Lieutenants*

Irwin R. Cullins (later Captain), Commanding  
 Roy Tuchbreiter

*Second Lieutenant*

Neal J. Coltrin

**DENTAL DETACHMENT***First Lieutenants*

Earl C. Kimbro (later Captain)  
 John J. Holland (later Captain)

**VETERINARY DETACHMENT***First Lieutenant*

Homer Wilson

*Second Lieutenant*

John B. Grigsby

**ROSTER OF OFFICERS REASSIGNED OR DISCHARGED BEFORE REGIMENT EMBARKED FOR OVERSEAS, INCLUDING SIXTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY***Lieutenant Colonels*

John W. Reig (later assigned to 124th Field  
 Artillery)  
 Charles B. Smith

*Majors*

Frederick C. Miller  
 Morton C. Porter

*Chaplains*

John W. Ferris  
 Claude M. Finnell

*Captains*

George W. Armbrust  
 Charles Benson (later Major, Thirty-third  
 Division Staff)  
 John M. Evey (later Major, D. S., Thirty-  
 third Division Staff)  
 Harris F. Hall  
 Roy M. Hawse

## Leo T. LeBrun

Herbert B. McKahin (later Major, S. C.)  
 Alfred E. Miller  
 Clarence H. Preston  
 William W. Scott  
 Elijah L. Soper  
 Ernest E. Stull  
 J. Frank Wahl  
 Karl W. Wahlberg  
 Frank J. Wahlheim  
 William W. Warn  
 Hammond W. Whitsitt

*First Lieutenants*

Albert Aisenstadt (later Major, M. C.)  
 Robert L. Bacon  
 O. C. Brown  
 Jesse A. Crafton  
 Joseph A. Cullen  
 Charles Dickerson  
 Douglas S. Elliott

George H. Fromme  
Glen R. Hill  
Edgar J. Kober  
Bert F. Lavine  
James L. Lawry  
Albert W. Lindberg  
Charles B. Myatt  
Clarence P. Reid  
Robert L. Rezner  
Joseph B. Stone  
Barton R. Weston  
Walter H. Wood

## *Second Lieutenants*

Charles O. Bastian  
William L. Dickson  
Harold H. Dodd  
Clyde H. Eaves  
Henry T. Johnson  
Warren A. Sidener  
Earl G. Smith  
Rudolph L. Torder

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS ASSIGNED OR REASSIGNED WHILE IN THE A. E. F. OTHER THAN DURING OPERATIONS

### *Captains*

Oscar E. Carlstrom  
Franklin Dean (later Major)  
Hugh N. Harding  
Ivar Hendrickson (later Major)  
Gail Reed

Edgar W. Freeman  
Cecil B. Goose (later Major)  
Lawrence K. Lewis  
Herbert J. Powell  
Frank H. Quinn (later Captain)  
Barrett Rogers  
Charles C. Shields  
Robert E. White

### *First Lieutenants*

Hjalmer H. Bergh  
Richard H. Conner



## OFFICERS OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Rear row: Lieutenants Polson, Conner, Houdek, Clute, Hootman and Shaw.

Front Row: Lieutenants Blazer, Cederburg, Captain Lewis, Lieutenants Trued, Swedburg, Nelson.



#### OFFICERS OF THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

Top row: Captains George W. Armbrust, Roy M. Hawse, A. E. Miller, W. W. Scott.

Second row: Captains Elijah L. Soper, E. E. Stull, Frank J. Waldheim.

Third row: Captain W. W. Warn, Lieutenants M. H. Cable and Harold M. Hootman.

Bottom row: Lieutenants R. M. Houdek, Norman Meyer, E. W. Swedberg, Benedict Wolfner.

*Second Lieutenants*

Merwyn H. Cable (later First Lieutenant)  
Leyman W. Clark  
Harry C. Fairty  
Fred J. Hinkhouse  
Hiram F. Lay (later First Lieutenant)  
Oscar McPeak (later First Lieutenant)  
Norman Meyer (later First Lieutenant)

Robert E. Minium (later First Lieutenant)  
Arthur C. Na'ied (later First Lieutenant)  
Einar B. Risberg (later First Lieutenant)  
Edgar J. Rule  
Robert J. Ryan  
Leslie A. Tracy  
Charles A. M. Waterhuse  
Benedict Wolfner



**WINNERS OF THE FIRST PRIZE**

Both at the division and the corps shows this battery of the 123rd won first prize



AN AERIAL PANORAMA OF GESNES



A VIEW OF BANTHEVILLE

## The 124th Field Artillery

COLONEL HORATIO B. HACKETT, EDITOR

BY CAPTAIN ROBERT J. CASEY



**T**HE 124th Field Artillery had its beginning in June, 1917, when the patriotic citizens of East St. Louis undertook to raise a regiment of infantry for service with the Illinois National Guard. Recruiting was rapid and the accomplishment of the task was in sight when the Governor announced a more pressing need for the completion of the state's artillery brigade. Thereupon the unnamed infantry regiment became the Third Illinois Field Artillery. It was brought to strength almost immediately by the addition of three troops from the old First Illinois Cavalry. Colonel Gordon Strong was placed at the

head of the new regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Horatio B. Hackett was appointed second in command.

It would be difficult to imagine a less military organization than that which was mobilized at Springfield and inducted into the federal service early in August. None of the East St. Louis battalion had any previous acquaintance with the army and most of the former cavalymen were new recruits. In place of the prescribed fifty-three officers the regiment had only twenty-six. Of these only six knew anything about artillery.

The outlook was discouraging. The enlisted personnel was excellent, earnest, loyal, willing and able to learn but woefully handicapped by the lack of experienced noncommissioned officers. One battery had been recruited from the foreign-born employees of the East St. Louis stock yards





**COLONEL HORATIO B. HACKETT**  
Commanding the 124th Field Artillery.

and so few of the men spoke English that the commands in drill had to be given in a variety of Slavonic dialects.

The War Department was unable to furnish artillery matériel and could give no promise as to when guns, horses and other very necessary equipment would be available. In the meantime all instruction in artillery subjects was necessarily at a standstill. A few photographs of artillery in action gave the officers their only idea of what a gun was supposed to resemble. The men were denied even that slight assistance. They were taught standing gun drill and the posts of the cannoneers with sticks of wood serving as cannon. They were taught the movements of mounted drill with men representing horses and hitched together with harness made of twine.

The wisest of crystal gazers could not have conjured a vision of the dim hills of Véry, of Death Valley and Sheep Shank Hill, of Mont Sec, or the gassy forests of Romagne and Banthéville, as the mob-like squads jostled their way into a column of fours for the first march. The most optimistic could not have pictured this mass of men as an integral part of an orderly army. Their most sanguine admirer could hardly have ventured to guess that they would ever have a part in the winning of the war.

The enlisted personnel seemed hopelessly individual. The men acted as a unit in nothing. To coördinate these individualities into a workable unit presented a problem that would have puzzled Archimedes.

Then came the days of intensive training in Camp Logan, days of intensive grief as well as intensive drill. Here the regiment was rechristened the 124th Field Artillery and made a part of the



THE OLD FIRST CAVALRY ESCORTS  
MARSHAL JOFFRE



MARSHAL JOFFRE



COLONEL GORDON STRONG

Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade.

About the middle of September Colonel Strong became seriously ill and was forced to resign on account of physical disability. The regiment thereby lost an enthusiastic and capable officer. His illness can be attributed directly to the great amount of energy, labor and time he spent in the first days of the organization of the regiment. Colonel Strong, after recovering from his illness, attended an officers' training camp and later accepted a commission as major of artillery in the Officer's Reserve Corps, thereby showing his intense pa-

triotism in his desire to get into the service, even though he had to accept a lower grade than the one he formerly held. Lieutenant Colonel Hackett was promoted to the rank of colonel and placed in command of the regiment, remaining at its head until he was wounded on September 28 in the Argonne offensive.

Guns came to the regiment during the winter of 1917-1918—3-inch pieces that had outlived their usefulness in other organizations. A range was rented some ten miles away from the camp. It was a strip of flat land, long and narrow—more like a bowling alley than an artillery range but it served its purpose. The gun crews found new interest in their work when they first heard the crack of the cannon and the whine of a shell. The officers became oriented. They began to see the application of all the seemingly useless theory they had acquired at regimental and brigade schools.

An officer was sent from the organization each week to attend the School of Fire at Fort Sill. Gradually a regiment began to appear out of the original chaos that had mobilized at Springfield.

In May, 1918, the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade was ordered overseas. The 124th left Houston May 14, was encamped at Camp Merritt a week and sailed aboard the Canadian Pacific transport *Melita* May 26.

After debarking at Liverpool the Illinois cannoneers were taken to a

rest camp at Winchester, England, whence, after a brief stay, they were rushed through Southampton across the channel to Havre and thence by train to the training area at Ornans and Valdahon, France.

At the Second Corps Artillery School, where the three artillery regiments received 75-millimeter guns and new horse equipment, the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade received a rating as one of the best trained organizations in the A. E. F. This led to the shortening of the ordinary period of probation by a full month and the dispatch of these regiments to a sector where there was promise of activity.

The 124th Field Artillery left Valdahon for the front August 22, 1918. The batteries started overland for Besançon at 5 a. m. Supply and headquarters companies entrained at Valdahon, leaving at 9 p. m.



A GROUP OF "NONCOMS"

The highway leading down into the valley of the Doubs was the route followed by the legionaries of Caesar in their conquest of Gaul. From some learned source in the column came the information that one Varus also had marched down this road with the eagles of Rome before him and two hundred thousand men at his back to fight the Germans—and at the end of the road the Hun had overwhelmed and massacred his command.

This cheerful news reached the head of the column just after it had passed through the tunnel between the valley of the Loue and the valley of the Doubs. The leading battery had halted for a rest, and the men were sitting alongside the road looking down upon the most wonderful panorama they had seen or were to see in France: a white road falling away between its rows of spear-pointed poplars, past sleepy villages to a glistening river.



THE 124TH QUARTETTE

Lockwood, Kimman, Kellar and Brophy, all  
from Peoria.

The caisson corporal of the first section received the news of the sad fate of Varus and passed it on for what it was worth to the gunner of the first piece.

The gunner sniffed dubiously.

"Two hundred thousand killed," he repeated. "Well, all I gotta say is that this guy Varus had blamed poor artillery."

An hour and a half was allowed each battery for loading in Besançon, but none required half that time. A process of tripping refractory mules with an unexpected rush and hurling them head first into the little box cars facilitated the entraining by several minutes.

The regiment detrained at Zoug. It was raining when the leading section arrived and continued to rain throughout the night.

To hasten the unloading alternate sections were run to Pagny-sur-Meuse. About midnight a German bombing squadron visited Pagny and dropped three aerial torpedoes. Fortunately there were no troops at the

unloading platform and the bombs fell harmlessly about a decoy lantern well removed from the track.

After camping at Ecrouves for the night the regiment took to the road August 24. The Forêt de la Reine was reached at 4:30 a. m., August 25, and permanent camp was pitched. Matériel, horses and men were camouflaged under the dense foliage. Regimental headquarters were established at Boucq.

At this time very few of the particulars of the regiment's mission had been made known. It was obvious from the amount of traffic on the roads to the front that an offensive of large proportions was in prospect—the dullest private in the rear rank was speedily aware of that. But the details of the plan were lacking.

So for several days the regiment remained encamped. The rumbling of the guns came back like the roar of a distant surf. Otherwise there was little to indicate the presence of a war except an occasional enemy plane.

In the meantime reconnaissance parties were at work along the front line picking positions for the regiment. Working squads were sent to Boucon-



#### NO MAN'S LAND FOR FOUR YEARS

The view from Rambucourt. In the distance are Mont Sec at the left and Xivray-Marvoisin at the right. In the foreground are American trenches.

ville on the night of September 1 to unload ammunition, and the artillery's purpose in the coming offensive began to take shape.

Preparation of positions by the battery crews themselves was started at once. The working details were billeted in the wrecked buildings of Bouconville. All work was done at night.

The need for caution became evident before the preparations had progressed two days. Something in the changing scenery about Rambucourt, the town to the right of the regimental sector, caught the eye of the enemy and he immediately placed it under a heavy bombardment. Thenceforward Rambucourt was given no rest—shells and gas, gas and shells, alternating in its daily strafing.

Immediately north of Bouconville is a small lake and on the wooded banks, almost in direct sight of Mont Sec, Batteries B and C took up their positions. To the second battalion was assigned a ridge to the left of the village. Battery A was placed at a crossroad behind the town.



TYPICAL REVETMENTS ON THE ROAD TO XIVRAY

Something of the history of the sector was made evident when the bottom of a boat, in use as an ammunition ferry across the little lake between Bouconville and Battery C, fell out. Divers, searching for the lost shells, brought up human bones. The floor of the lake was covered with the remains of the French who had held Mont Sec for fifteen minutes in one of the early offensives of the war and had paid some forty thousand men as the price for the brief tenure.

The history of the collapse of the St. Mihiel salient under the battering of the greatest artillery concentration in history is too well known to need recounting here.

The infantry went over the top at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 12th. At 11 o'clock came the order to cease firing. French patrols were at work



THE TOWN OF MONT SEC AS SEEN FROM THE CREST OF MONT SEC

on Mont Sec. One of the most famous German strongholds in France had fallen without a shot in its own defense.

There was nothing left alive on the hill when the French searched the intricate tunnel system. Officers dead in their bunks, horses, dogs and field mice, dead though untouched by shell fire, gave mute testimony to the terrible effect of Number 5 gas.

The rest of the drive was an artillery procession. The First Division, to which the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade was attached for the drive, was squeezed out of the combat by the encircling movement of the Forty-second and Twenty-sixth Divisions which closed the salient. Meanwhile the 124th Field Artillery had come up as far as Nonsard, through a swamp which some maps showed to be impassable for foot soldiers, to say nothing ofartil-

lery. Several times the guns were hauled out of the mud and laid to fire on a suspected area only to be limbered up again and dragged forward. German artillery in the sector seemed to have been wiped out by the fire from the American guns.

The march out of the St. Mihiel salient began on the night of September 14. The 124th moved twenty-six kilometers to the woods near Gironville, and camped for the day, September 15. The history of the organization from this point until its arrival on the front near Verdun sounds like a chapter from Xenophon—"We then marched four stadia and three parasangs and arrived at the city of Kalipotmos, a flourishing place and well populated."



WITH THE AMERICANS IN NONSARD  
A cheerful company back from the front.

The 124th, however, saw no flourishing cities. It spent its days in forests and its nights on the road. And the rate of its marches would have troubled the leathery feet of Xenophon's mercenaries.

Positions were taken in the old lines of the Verdun artillery defensive system behind Avocourt, and held with desultory firing until September 24, when an advance of some three kilometers was ordered. This brought the 75's to a point only about 2,000 meters behind a very hot spot in the front line.

The American offensive in the Meuse-Argonne sector began at 2:30 a. m., September 26, with a heavy barrage. So intense was the concentration





A GERMAN DUMMY TANK

of artillery fire that four batteries were placed virtually in a column, shooting over one another.

The infantry of the Ninety-first Division, supported by the 124th, went over the top at 5:30 a. m. and encountered only perfunctory resistance. The artillery fired to the extreme limits of its range, then limbered up and started forward once more. Roads from Avocourt north had been very nearly obliterated by artillery fire and well-placed

mines. The second battalion cleared the woods beyond Avocourt that night, and took up a position at the Véry-Cheppy crossroads.

The first battalion was caught in a traffic jam of trucks, ration carts, ambulances and machine gun caissons, and did not get through to the crossroads until the next day.

Meanwhile the infantry had gone as far as the original preparation warranted. They encountered stiff resistance and set up a call for help. The batteries up forward were short of ammunition and there seemed to be no prospect of getting any. To increase the difficulty of the situation it began to rain and the soft clay that covered the path through No Man's Land speedily



TERRAIN BETWEEN EPINONVILLE AND ECLISFONTAINE

Over which the Ninety-first Division advanced with the support of the 124th Field Artillery.

became glistening slime and tenacious bog through which cannon scarcely could be drawn.

At about 3 p. m. on the 27th the order was passed down by the military police that the right of way was to be given to artillery and ammunition trains at once. The stalled traffic pulled over to the side of the road and the batteries moved forward. Fear of a counterattack was growing up ahead. To allay

this feeling, Captain Bradford Moore and Battery E were sent forward to a position in the infantry lines between Epinonville and Eclisfontaine. This battery remained with the infantry through varying fortunes for two weeks.

On the afternoon of September 28 Batteries A, F and D advanced to the valley north of Véry and went into action. The batteries turned out to the south of the plank highway in a deep draw afterward christened "Death Valley" by the batteries stationed there. Evidences of fierce fighting were all about. Across the valley on the steep hillside was a wrecked battery of 88's that evidently had been caught by the American barrage. Ten dead Germans lay scattered about the guns. That afternoon Colonel Hackett was wounded by a high explosive shell and compelled to leave the regiment.



ON THE EPINONVILLE-ECLISFONTAINE ROAD  
Dugouts used by the Americans as first-aid stations.



IN DEATH VALLEY



**MAJOR FRANK L. REARDEN**

Senior major of the 124th during combat service.

Major Frank L. Rearden was next in command.

The regiment had just entered upon what proved to be one of the most trying weeks of its military experience. On the night of September 29 the batteries came under severe shelling for the first time. Late that afternoon the second battalion moved to Epinonville. The men had scarcely dug themselves in when a zone fire began to sweep the town and the roads leading out of it in the vicinity of Major John D. White's post of command.

On the following morning, Lieutenant Harry H. Wertz, a liaison officer, appeared at the second battalion post of command with eight shell fragments in his back. That evening Lieutenant

Carl M. Wiley was wounded in the head by a bit of a high explosive shell.

At 6 p. m. the bombardment increased in the vicinity of Battery F's position. Captain Albert A. Sercombe immediately visited the emplacements of the firing battery and ordered the men to get under cover. Then before he himself could gain shelter a shell burst only a few yards from him. A fragment struck him in the back and he died on the way to the hospital.



**LOOKING EAST FROM EPINONVILLE TOWARD IVOIRY**

The next few days were days of continuous firing. For almost two weeks the 124th remained in action, supporting the Ninety-first, First and Thirty-second Divisions. Unofficial support also was given to the Thirty-seventh Division in its advance over the hill at Ivoir.

While the regiment was stationed in Death Valley it experienced its most disastrous air raid. Fifty men were wounded by bombs from enemy planes which flew over the valley October 2.

Lieutenant Hobart A. Lawton assumed command of Battery F after the death of Captain Sercombe. On the morning of October 7 Lieutenant Lawton stopped at Major White's post of command

for orders, then went to breakfast in a kitchen salvaged from German equipment in the little town. He had scarcely entered the building when a shell hit the roof, exploded on the tile and hurled a rain of iron fragments upon the men below. Of the eighteen men in the building none escaped. Eight, including Lieutenant Lawton, were killed outright.

The regiment was relieved to get new horse equipment October 11. In the meantime, on October 4, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Rogers had assumed command.

An order assigning the 124th Field Artillery to the First Army as army artillery was received soon after the arrival of the regiment at the Bois de Brocourt, a rest and re-equipment camp near Verdun.

The 123rd Regiment had lost so many horses that it was decided not to attempt to send it forward again. So this regiment was withdrawn for motorization and its horses issued to the 124th and 122nd.

The 124th left the Bois de Brocourt for the front at 1:30 p. m., October 24. On the night of the 26th it reached and occupied positions at Romagne. The batteries were placed in an old German munitions park and



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH A. ROGERS  
Commander of the 124th during the latter part of active operations.



IN THE STREETS OF ROMAGNE

well camouflaged, but trouble started the first day and continued until the last gun was pulled out after the big drive had gone forward.

At daylight the shelling of Romagne commenced. As a variation the enemy artillery swept east and west along the road and the "overs" and "shorts" fell indiscriminately among marching infantry, artillery, kitchens, machine gun carts and transport wagons. As a result of observation by the famous Von Richthofen aerial circus, the fire steadily improved.



MAJOR CHARLES E. WHEELER

Gas attacks of varying nature and intensity began on the evening of October 27. Lieutenant Miles Parmely, regimental telephone officer, was caught in a gas pocket near the second battalion post of command and was evacuated. He died in a hospital.

Lieutenant Stevenson P. Lewis was killed on the morning of October 31 while locating an observation post. Pinned to his undershirt was found the Croix de Guerre, awarded him by the French government when he was in the American ambulance service early in the war. He had never spoken of the decoration and only a few intimate friends knew that he possessed it until his

personal effects were removed from his body.

A new drive was scheduled for the morning of November 1. Battery A was ordered to send forward a platoon of two guns and four caissons to advance with the infantry of the Eighty-ninth Division. The platoon went forward as ordered; was caught in three barrages before it had gone two kilometers; found the path through the Bois de Banthéville obliterated by shelling from high calibre marine rifles; and was forced to travel through No Man's Land, between the fire of friend and foe, for more than half a kilometer.

A trail back into the woods was found, but not until two caissons had been wrecked and half the horses in the platoon killed. The remnants of the platoon arrived at the point designated in time to go over the top behind the first wave of the infantry, following the line of the American barrage as far as Rémonville.

The day was chill and damp and the artificial fog of powder smoke and mustard gas scurried through the hollows before a high cold wind. Dead German machine gunners, victims of the barrage, seemed to cover the hill-top, and the infantry swept forward against little or no resistance.

From the edge of the woods on the crest of the hill north of the Bois de



IN THE BOIS DE BANTHEVILLE

A portion of the *Kriemhilde Stellung*, taken by men of the Eighty-ninth Division.



INFANTRY ADVANCING NEAR ROMAGNE



**THE TOWN OF BANTHEVILLE UNDER FIRE**

As photographed from an airplane at an altitude of 3500 meters.

Banthéville, the whole panorama of the battle was visible. The thin lines of American doughboys were going forward through the haze of gas and smoke, the serpentine barrier of smoke puffs ahead of them marking the edge of the barrage; a few isolated tongues of flame were to be seen at the edge of the woods where scattered machine gun nests were still defying the American barrage in a last hopeless stand.

In the distance was a bombarded road up a long hill over which the harrassed German retreat was in full progress. Men in field-gray were hurrying up the slopes to the north of Rémonville. Some succeeded in reaching the covering forest. Others were caught in the onrushing tide of the barrage. And toward the American line flowed a constant stream of the Kaiser's troops with their hands in the air.



GERMAN SAWMILL ON THE BEAUMONT-LANEUVILLE ROAD

Where the 356th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division, got its last shelling, at 10:45 a. m., November 11, 1918.

In the meantime our batteries in Romagne were subjected to a carefully adjusted artillery fire and A, C, D and E suffered heavily.

During the next three days the war became a parade. The Germans were falling back to the Meuse in haste and there was little work for the artillery until the enemy rear guard was stiffened to screen the crossing of the river at Stenay and Pouilly. The 124th pressed forward so rapidly that during the greater part of the advance from Rémonville to Beaclair the regiment was within half a kilometer of the infantry front lines.

The batteries, however, encountered trouble at Beaclair. The terrain afforded no natural protection for artillery, and before trenches could be dug a zone fire, probably directed at the town, had fallen in Battery A's emplacement, wounding 30 per cent of the gun crew.

On the night of November 6 the 124th was ordered to positions on the left bank of the Meuse over a road that was under constant shell fire. The route was



THE WRECKED BRIDGE AT STENAY





#### TWO MORE MINUTES TO FIGHT

The 353rd Infantry passing the church at Stenay at 10:58 a. m., November 11, 1918.

through Laneuville, then shivering under a bombardment by 21's, and out upon the Beaumont highway, which machine gunners from across the river kept under a continuous fire.



MAJOR CLINTON G. BECKETT

The batteries ran this gauntlet with few losses, and dug emplacements between the stations of the infantry outposts, ahead of the front lines, for a muzzle-to-muzzle duel with the 77's across the Meuse. They were still in these positions November 11, waiting for the engineers to build a pontoon which would enable them to cross over into Pouilly and follow the infantry advance which had been resumed that morning.

A month later the Fifty-eighth Brigade was returned to the Thirty-third Division, and marched into Luxemburg. Owing to a scarcity of horses, batteries D, E and F were equipped with mules and took the hundred-mile hike as the



THE REGIMENTAL BAND GIVES A CONCERT  
On St. Patrick's day, 1919, at Rollingen.

only mule-drawn battalion of 75's in the United States service. The regiment remained in the reserve of the Army of Occupation until ordered home.

By the middle of March the officers learned that the regiment soon would go back to the States and actual orders were received a few weeks later. On April 28 the regiment marched out of Luxemburg. The command embarked on the America May 14 and ten days later landed in Hoboken, N. J. Here Colonel Hackett resumed command and led the regiment to Chicago. The whole city seemed to have turned out to greet the returning troops, who paraded through the "Loop" district amid the cheers of thousands of men and women. Two days later the regiment formally was mustered out of the service. The two East St. Louis batteries went home intact the following day, and there, too, they were received enthusiastically.

The record of the 124th Field Artillery is a glorious one. Its casualties were the highest in the brigade. Few artillery regiments in the A. E. F. lost so heavily. Twenty-eight officers and men were killed in action or died from wounds. One hundred and sixty-nine were evacuated. These figures tell the story of the regiment's service on the battlefield.



OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Captain*

Albert A. Sercombe

*First Lieutenant*

Miles M. Parmely

*Second Lieutenants*

Stevenson P. Lewis

Hobart A. Lawton

*Sergeants*

Thurman Bishop

Ulysses G. Fletcher

Frank L. Gill

*Corporals*

James R. Buxton

Ray Mull

Roy H. Sumpter

Joseph A. O'Leary

Charles L. Wing

*Mechanics*

Floyd Anderson

Harold C. Buchanan

Stearns C. Cole

*Wagoner*

Elmer E. Clevenger

*Privates, First Class*

William G. Allen

Christopher Everett

William A. Lambersky

Harry Lotze

Clifford L. Shaffner

*Privates*

Alfred N. Allen

James R. Borders

Arthur C. Bundy

Harry A. Colson

Alfred A. Foechner

William T. Goodwin

Russell Gray

Charles J. Haye

William Hilliard

Richard Howell

Peter E. Hurst

George H. James

Thomas J. Lavelle

William Lyman

John L. Madden

Douglas R. Matthews

John Mazzali

Burt F. Reynolds

DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY

*First Lieutenant*

Mark M. Duffy

Distinguished Service Cross

*Sergeants*

George H. Ammons

Distinguished Service Cross

Joseph D. Cassidy

Distinguished Service Cross

Clarence L. Wright

Distinguished Service Cross

*Corporal*

Joseph A. O'Leary

Distinguished Service Cross

*First Class Privates*

Ralph Silloway

Distinguished Service Cross

Milton C. Webb

Distinguished Service Cross

*Privates*

William W. Fink

Distinguished Service Cross

Perry F. Modrow

Distinguished Service Cross

CITATIONS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

*First Lieutenant Mark M. Duffy, Medical Corps:*

Near Romagne, November 1, 1918, Lieutenant Duffy displayed exceptional bravery in caring for the wounded and directing their evacuation under heavy shell fire and rescued several wounded men.

*Sergeant George H. Ammons, Battery A:*

Near Remonville, October 31, 1918, while in charge of the limbers and horses of a platoon sent to the front line infantry trenches, Sergeant Ammons, although himself wounded, took the

place of a driver who had fallen from his horse. He refused medical attention until all the pieces were in position and the limbers and horses taken to a place of safety.

*Sergeant Joseph D. Cassidy, Battery C:*

Near Romagne, November 1, 1918, after three members of his gun crew had been wounded under heavy shell fire, Sergeant Cassidy, alone, kept his gun in action. Later, after reorganizing his section, he administered first-aid treatment to the wounded men.

*Sergeant Clarence L. Wright, Battery C:*

At Romagne, November 1, 1918, after three members of his gun crew had been wounded during heavy shell fire, Sergeant Wright, alone, kept his piece in action for fifteen minutes until assistance reached him. He was wounded in action shortly afterward.

*Corporal Joseph A. O'Leary (deceased) Battery F:*

Near Epinonville, October 7, 1918, Corporal O'Leary left shelter and volunteered as a stretcher-bearer, making frequent trips to and from gun positions under heavy fire until he was killed by a shell.

*Private (First-Class) Ralph Silloway, Battery C:*

Near Romagne, November 1-3, 1918, under heavy shell fire, while other members of his section were all wounded or engaged in first-aid work, Private Silloway, alone, kept his piece firing. Two days later, when the chief of his section was wounded, Private Silloway took command of the section and followed the barrage.

*Private (First-Class) Milton C. Webb, Medical Detachment:*

Near Romagne, November 1, 1918, Private Webb, wounded while administering aid to other men under shell fire, remained on duty in disregard to his own injury.

*Private William W. Fink, Battery A:*

Near Remonville, October 31, 1918, Private Fink, a driver, was seriously wounded by shell fire when going through front line infantry trenches with his platoon, but he remained at his post, refusing to seek medical attention until he fell from his horse exhausted.

*Private Perry F. Modrow, Medical Detachment:*

Near Romagne, November 1, 1918, Private Modrow was wounded while serving at the battalion aid station under heavy shell fire, but he insisted on continuing at work until compelled to go to the rear.



WINNERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Left to right: Sergeant Clarence L. Wright, First Class Private Milton C. Webb, Private Perry F. Modrow.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICER OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY WAS AWARDED, BY  
GENERAL PERSHING, CERTIFICATE FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS AND  
CONSPICUOUS SERVICE

*Lieutenant Colonel*

Joseph A. Rogers

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY WHO WERE CITED FOR  
GALLANTRY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

All others received citations only from General Bell.

*Colonel*

† Horatio B. Hackett

*Lieutenant Colonel*

J. A. Rogers

*Major*

† John D. White

*Captains*

† Robert J. Casey

Elmer O. Furrow

Russell Lord

\* Philip H. Newman

\* Albert A. Sercombe

*First Lieutenants*

Elmer Erickson

\* Stevenson P. Lewis

† Miles M. Parmely

Donald K. Stier

† Al. S. Vinnedge

*Second Lieutenants*

† Clarence H. Hauss

\* Hobart A. Lawton

Richard F. Nedrow

Harry H. Wertz

*Regiment Sergeant Major*

Charles E. Herman

*First Sergeants*

Carl B. Erickson

William J. McKernan

John L. Smith

*Color Sergeant*

Frederick F. Smith

*Sergeants*

Carl L. Baier

† Edward L. Buehlman

Merrel Collard

Harry A. Coops

Gerald Crump

\* Ulysses C. Fletcher

Hugh M. Hogan

James H. Hurt

George R. Laswell

Henry Leonard

† Ray Levi

† Frederick Lowder

Clarence F. McCarty

William D. McCarthy

\* Roy H. Mull

† Charles W. Ruckel

Lester F. Stevenson

James G. Thomas

Joseph E. Turner

Glynn W. White

Harry O. Wood

*Corporals*

Elmer W. Acker

Leo J. Ambs

Clayton Below

Thomas Biggins

John Gasporotti

Jesse E. Edwards

Benjamin T. Erwin

Clyde F. Everts

Cecil Fitzgerald

Carl Fitzwater

Wm. Gale

George D. Gillespie

Forrest L. Godman

Ora F. Hire

Harold Hoffacker

Edward H. Holzhammer

Walter Horton

Henry B. E. Huddle

James R. Hudson

Adney R. Hursey

Virgil A. Jackson

George Krieg

Charles J. Landgraf

Rudolph J. Lentz

John H. Lynch

Raymond F. McFarland  
 Joseph R. McHale  
 Robert L. Niblick  
 Walter Reinhold  
 Claude Rittenhouse  
 Lewis D. Parmelee  
 Eugene Riley  
 Frank Runn  
 Marion Samples  
 Charles Seekatz, Jr.  
 Arthur J. Schmitt  
 Herbert T. Schmitt  
 † Frank Simon  
 Frank E. Smith  
 Wm. T. Smith  
 Daniel H. Sprecher  
 Wm. M. Underwood  
 † Herschel K. Warrick  
 Perry Lee Werts  
 Fillmore Whitver

*Bugler*

Ermund Scholz

*Chief Mechanic*

William T. Hedrick  
 Frank R. Parker  
 Stuart V. Roland

*Mechanics*

John Anderson  
 Thomas A. Hall  
 Willie C. Williams

*Privates, First Class*

George B. Barnes  
 Pawal Brazinski  
 Calvin Bridges  
 Virgil J. Brueggeman  
 Paul Cable  
 Evan C. Carlson  
 Lea L. Claycombe  
 Leo Domrose  
 Willard Folks  
 Frank A. Fri  
 Aldyth E. Gibbs  
 Louis M. Gibson  
 Alfred W. Glatthaar  
 Ford A. Gossard  
 † Joseph M. Hamrouge  
 Olaf J. Hilliard

Harold Hudson  
 Linwood Keeler  
 Wm. A. Layton  
 Roy P. Libka  
 Luke A. Meadows  
 Sven M. Magnuson  
 Frank A. Maloney  
 Vernie J. Mavity  
 Benjamin Mizerka  
 Lloyd Newton  
 Ralph J. Reed  
 John Robinson  
 Abraham Rogul  
 Frank H. Pitner  
 † James J. Smat  
 Julius J. Thiry  
 George Waddell  
 Lunford W. Williams  
 Henry T. Williamson  
 Louis Youngman

*Privates*

Charles F. Aurell  
 William L. Aurell  
 Charles R. Bean  
 † Henry J. Bouthot  
 Joseph V. Carey  
 Harold B. Christy  
 Chester E. Davis  
 Martin Duvall  
 Joseph R. Flanagan  
 Frank Gillengerten  
 Lawrence W. Halvorsen  
 Olie Hopperstad  
 Cloyd N. Jenkins  
 Hubert G. Kneedler  
 Charles A. Lang  
 Guy Masterson  
 † Urban D. Miller  
 Ray N. Palmer  
 † Jan Radovich  
 Isidore J. Schmitt  
 Albert Strom  
 Homer F. Summe  
 Bernhard K. Totland  
 Oscar Watkins  
 Allen G. West  
 Leslie Westerling  
 Edward L. Wohlgemuth

## OFFICERS OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY WHO SERVED OVERSEAS

*Colonels*

Horatio B. Hackett  
 A. L. Keesling

*Lieutenant Colonels*

Robert W. Clark  
 John W. Reig  
 Joseph A. Rogers

*Majors*

Clinton G. Beckett, M. C.  
 Frank L. Rearden  
 Charles E. Wheeler  
 John D. White

**CAPTAINS OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY**

Top row: William H. Bennett, Robert J. Casey, Ralph Cook, Elmer O. Furrow.  
Second row: Edward S. Gould, C. M. Hardison, Russell Lord, Bradford V. Moore.  
Third row: Philip H. Newman, R. M. Peters, Truman Plantz, Jr., Ralph J. Selman.  
Bottom row: Albert A. Sercombe, R. R. Stafford, Morell Tomlin, Roy A. Westerfield.

*Captains*

William H. Bennett, M. C.  
 Robert J. Casey  
 Bert V. Clayton  
 Thomas L. Fekete, Jr.  
 Ivan L. Foster  
 Elmer O. Furrow  
 Edward S. Gould  
 Carl M. Hardison  
 James A. Holland  
 Ridgely Hudson  
 Russell Lord  
 Bradford V. Moore  
 Roland E. Netcott  
 Philip H. Newman  
 Russell M. Peters  
 Truman Pantz, Jr.  
 Ralph J. Selman  
 Albert A. Sercombe (deceased)  
 Robert E. Shontz  
 Robert R. Stafford  
 Morell Tomlin  
 Roy A. Westerfield

*First Lieutenants*

Henri S. Babcock, M. C.  
 Clayton A. Beall, V. C.  
 Walter H. Bentley  
 Charles J. Bobinette  
 Byron B. Carmichael  
 Victor Y. Coulter, D. C.  
 William A. Crookston  
 Harry H. Devereux  
 Mark M. Duffy, M. C. (later Captain)  
 William C. Dunham  
 Russell D. Ellis  
 Elmer Erickson  
 Maurice F. Geehan, M. C.  
 George M. Gillespie (later Captain)  
 Earl G. Grissel  
 Stanley G. Harris  
 Oswald B. Higgins  
 Charles W. B. Hill, Chaplain  
 James L. Jones  
 Stevenson P. Lewis (deceased)  
 William W. Lyons  
 Thomas D. Mackie  
 Harrison W. Maltby, M. C.  
 Thomas C. McGee

Guy R. Mercer  
 Ray E. Meyer  
 Edgar S. Montague  
 Ira B. Mowry, D. C.  
 Miles M. Parmely (deceased)  
 Frederick W. Patton  
 Wendell J. Phillips  
 Lawrence E. Richardson  
 William A. Rodger  
 Paul C. Sharlock  
 Orrin R. Smith  
 Donald K. Stier  
 Warren A. Tipton  
 Al S. Vinnedge  
 Alvah H. Warren, Jr.  
 Fred S. Willbur

*Second Lieutenants*

George C. Baldwin  
 Welker E. Barton  
 Ward F. Bates  
 Alfred M. Brolling, V. C.  
 Michael Cody, Jr.  
 John E. Dowling  
 George B. Ferree  
 H. O. Gedicks  
 Jesse R. Gibson  
 Roy L. Hammond  
 Clarence H. Hausa  
 Julian C. Jaeckel  
 Robert F. Jones  
 William A. Laffin  
 Hobart A. Lawton (deceased)  
 O'a E. McKenzie  
 George I. Moseley  
 Richard F. Nedrow  
 Malcolm R. Rodger, Jr.  
 William M. Sealy  
 Frank J. Sweeney  
 Carl B. Thompson  
 Thomas D. Tift  
 Joseph W. Timmons, M. C.  
 Charles A. Wagner  
 Raymond L. Wamester  
 Harry H. Wertz  
 Carl M. Wiley  
 Carlos D. Wiseman  
 Mortimer Woodson

## OFFICERS WHO WERE WITH THE REGIMENT DURING THE TRAINING CAMP PERIOD

*Colonel*

Gordon Strong

*Majors*

Daniel W. Rogers, M. C.  
 Charles A. Walz

*Captains*

Ralph Cook  
 Max R. Hoffman  
 Clark Nixon  
 Gail Reed  
 Thomas J. Simpson  
 Herbert W. Styles



*First Lieutenants*

Albert Aisenstadt  
 Robert S. Bunn  
 Harry A. Harris  
 James A. Lee, Chaplain  
 James L. McWilliams  
 Lanson H. Pratt

*Second Lieutenants*

Warren A. Breckenridge  
 Irvin Cassity  
 John Godlewski  
 Levi M. Hall  
 Leslie S. Lowden  
 Peter A. Rex, V. C.  
 Robert P. Williams

**LIEUTENANTS OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY**

Top row: Donald K. Stier, A. H. Warren, Jr., Walker E. Barton, Michael Cody, Jr.  
 Second row: George B. Ferree, C. H. Hauss, Robert F. Jones, William A. Laffin.  
 Third row: Hobart A. Lawton, Malcolm R. Rodger, Jr., William M. Sealy, C. D. Wiseman.



FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Top row: Clayton A. Beall, William C. Dunham, Elmer Erickson, Ivan L. Foster (captain).

Second row: Stanley G. Harris, Stevenson P. Lewis, Thomas D. Mackie.

Third row: Ray E. Meyer, E. S. Montague, Miles M. Parmely, F. W. Patton.

Bottom row: L. H. Pratt, L. E. Richardson, William A. Rodger, Orrin R. Smith.



THE RUINS OF AVOCOURT



THE MEUSE RIVER AT STENAY

## The 108th Ammunition Train

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALTER J. FISHER, EDITOR



**B**EFORE the war Chicago knew them as members of the famous "Fighting Seventh." Even now, after having won fame in France, as the 108th Ammunition Train, the Irish veterans use the old name interchangeably with the new, for it links their record with that of their fathers, who fought in the Spanish-American War under the colors of the Seventh Illinois Infantry.

When the Chicago Irish regiment followed Colonel Daniel Moriarty down to Camp Logan, any suggestion that the organization give up its historic name would have provoked a fight, but a few months later the War Department announced reorganization plans which upset all traditions of the national guard. The "Fighting Seventh" suffered with the rest.

Although its record did not suffice to save for the regiment its name and identity, it did win an important recognition. To the old Seventh was assigned the responsibility of serving as divisional trains. Major General Bell described this duty as "a severe and dangerous task" upon which the success or failure of the Thirty-third Division might depend and in which there would be little glory and much hard work.

For service as the 108th Ammunition Train Companies A to F, inclusive, of the old regiment were selected. Later Company A of the old Fifth



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN M.  
CLASBY

Infantry, from which the machine gun companies of the Thirty-third Division had been formed, was added as a wagon company, but the rest of the personnel came from "Colonel Dan's" roster. Colonel Moriarty was made commander of the trains, with Lieutenant Colonel John M. Clasby of the old Seventh in command of the ammunition train. Early in November Lieutenant Colonel Clasby resigned, and Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Center of the old Fifth was named to succeed him.

In December, after having been sent to France ahead of the division, Lieutenant Colonel Center was promoted to a colonelcy and made commander of the 108th Train Headquarters and Military Police, succeeding Colonel Moriarty, who had resigned. Major John V. Clinnin was transferred from the 131st Infantry and placed in command of the 108th Ammunition Train with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Clinnin headed the train until April, 1918, just before the division sailed. At that time he was made a colonel and placed in charge of all the trains, a post he was later to exchange for the command of the 130th Infantry. Walter J. Fisher, then lieutenant colonel of the 122nd Field Artillery, was appointed commander of the 108th Ammunition Train, and remained at the head of the organization throughout the remainder of its career.

Meanwhile the officers and men of the train had been busy with the mysteries of their new service. They had been trained as infantrymen. To be called upon suddenly to "skin" mules, pilot trucks and master the intricacies of mounted drill was not an easy task, especially in view of the fact that at Camp Logan equipment was slow in arriving. Despite their handicaps the men of the train soon mastered their new job, and when the division sailed no regular army outfit could have harangued mules more fluently, transported shells more rapidly, or drilled with greater precision.

The division sailed in May. With the rest of the Thirty-third the ammunition train was sent from Texas to Hoboken, but the train actually sailed for France by way of Montreal and Halifax, going first to Liverpool, then across England to Southampton and finally over the channel to Havre. On the

trip across the Atlantic the ammunition train recorded its first death, Private Frank E. Gaal, a member of the medical detachment, suffering a fracture of the skull.

In France the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade, including the 108th Ammunition Train, was detached from the rest of the division. While the infantry units went into a training area back of the British lines, the gunners and the ammunition train were sent to Valdahon, or its vicinity. The ammunition train was billeted in the town of Villafans, about forty miles from the Swiss border in south central France.

Immediately the train encountered trouble. Horses fit for the gruelling work of hauling ammunition could hardly be found. The train, before leaving the United States, had turned over to another division all the animals used at Camp Logan, and the horses issued in France were decidedly inferior. But the train made light of its troubles. The horses were groomed and trained as if they were thoroughbreds. Even when it became evident that a sufficient number of motor trucks would not be available officers and men overcame the shortage by working at night to keep their equipment in repair. It was necessary to use trucks continuously, but the equipment was kept in good shape, and schedules were maintained at all times. "The ammunition must get there" was the slogan adopted by the organization and "get there" it did, regardless of whatever obstacles there were in the way.

Early in August it became evident that the brigade was to go into action. The ammunition train was ordered to haul shells and supplies to loading platforms near the railway station at Valdahon. After ten days of this work the brigade was ordered to the front on August 22. The horse battalion loaded at Besançon, while headquarters and the motor battalion went overland with their motor equipment. Provision was made for enough ammunition to supply the brigade in any emergency.

The brigade moved northward from Valda-



TRUCKS OF THE AMMUNITION TRAIN

In Villafans, where the train spent nearly three months in preparation for active service.



PANORAMA OF VILLAFANS

Regiments and the 155's of the 123rd Field Artillery. As it was estimated that the brigade would need 200,000 rounds on the first day of the attack, the train's task was a difficult one. Nevertheless, the ammunition dumps were piled high with shells when the gunners moved forward.

The St. Mihiel attack began on September 12. At dawn, under the protection of a hail of fire from the artillery, the infantry went over the top. As the line moved forward the trucks and wagons of the ammunition train followed, carrying fresh supplies to the advance positions of the artillery.

The first four kilometers, from Rambucourt to a point beyond Seicheprey, would have beaten any but American drivers. The terrain was pitted with shell holes, some of them thirty feet deep and twice as wide, where the German 380-millimeter and the American 16-inch guns had found a common mark. A month of almost incessant rain had made the battlefield a morass.

hon, through Toul and Nancy, to the St. Mihiel sector, detraining just south of Rambucourt and Mont Sec, where the famous First Division was holding the line. The artillerymen were held in reserve until September 10, but the ammunition train immediately began moving great stores of shells up to the most advanced posts for the 75's of the 122nd and 124th Field Artillery



FATHER O'HEARN CELEBRATING MASS AT VILLAFANS

How the ammunition got through only the men who cursed and prayed and floundered and pushed in their back-breaking advance can tell, but get through it did.

For three days and nights no one slept. Every man was out in the mud, under shell fire, keeping the ammunition moving forward to the guns. They had nothing to eat after they had exhausted the emergency rations of corned beef and hard tack which had been placed under every driver's seat.

The train made good. Ammunition reached the firing line on time and in adequate quantities. The task was so well performed that Brigadier General Henry D. Todd, Jr., the brigade commander, cited the ammunition train in orders for demonstrated capability.

The Americans had advanced fifteen kilometers in the St. Mihiel drive, reaching Nonsard, before the brigade was withdrawn. Then, instead of going to a rest area, the train followed the gunners overland to a sector northwest of Verdun to await the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Ammunition train headquarters were established in Brabant-en-Argonne, and there, despite the fact that the town, or what was left of it, was under heavy shell fire from the German long range guns, preparations were made for the coming battle. In five nights the train moved 200,000 rounds. This would have been an achievement in any circumstances; it was especially remarkable for the reason that the roads were jammed with French troops moving out of the line and American troops marching in.

On September 26 the offensive was launched with the Illinois brigade supporting the Ninety-first Division. The ammunition train lived up to its reputation. From the beginning of the drive food and shells were carried forward in the face of the greatest difficulties. It was at this time that the ammunition train lost its first man killed by the enemy, Frank H. Weaver, a private in the wagon company, being mortally wounded by shell fire.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALTER J. FISHER  
Commander of the 108th Ammunition Train during its  
service overseas.





THE RUINS OF AVOCOURT

After ten days of constant fighting the Ninety-first Division was relieved by the Thirty-second Division, but the Fifty-eighth Artillery Brigade remained in the line.

By September 28 the advance had reached "Death Valley," just south of Epinonville. At this place, on the evening of October 2, while the men were at mess, protected from the enemy's machine gun and artillery fire by high hills, the Germans, swooping over them with bombing planes, showered them with deadly missiles, causing a death list of seventeen and, in wounded, sixty-three litter cases. Five of the killed

and nine of the wounded were from Company E, 108th Ammunition Train, and about thirty of that company's horses were killed. Six days later, in the same vicinity, the enemy dropped one of his largest shells into the position of the headquarters of the horse battalion, stationed on the Avocourt-Véry road, just back of Véry. Three men were killed and several were wounded, some seriously, by this shell.

As the drive progressed the train continued to lose men in killed and wounded. There was no work more dangerous than that of getting up the ammunition. But regardless of the casualties, the work of rushing shells forward did not cease.



IN THE TOWN OF BEAUMONT

It was not until October 16 that the brigade was ordered to rest billets, the ammunition train going to Brabant-en-Argonne. The exhausted gunners and drivers plodded back twenty kilometers over ground wrested from the enemy and then for five days they rested and prepared for their next fighting.

The "rest" period gave the ammunition train little leisure. Food had to be carried as usual, and quantities of equipment had to be delivered to various units of the brigade to repair the damage done in battle. The train performed these tasks, notwithstanding the fact that its equipment, owing to its being used continuously, was greatly in need of repairs.



A STREET IN BRABANT-EN-ARGONNE

Trucks of the 108th Ammunition Train in the foreground; German prisoners in the background.

October 21 found artillerymen and train companies back in the line, in and around Gesnes and Romagne, ready for the final thrust in the Argonne that was to break the German line and force the signing of the armistice.

The crowning battle began November 1. It brought to the ammunition train the severest test of the organization's active service. Shells and food had to be taken from Romagne to Banthéville, Rémonville, Barricourt, Nouart, Beauclair, Beaufort, Laneuville, and beyond Stenay, over treacherous roads swept constantly by the enemy's fire. The roads were within easy range of German artillery and machine guns across the Meuse, and for great distances were subject to direct observation by the enemy. A drizzling rain, moreover, made progress difficult, even for the horse-drawn vehicles.

All these difficulties and dangers the train surmounted. Extraordinary quantities of ammunition—enough to make possible the terrific fire laid down



A DUGOUT IN THE FORET DE HESSE

by the artillery brigade—were delivered. From the moment the battle began to the very hour of the armistice the needed shells were available. Three citations written by the commanders of the Eighty-ninth, Ninety-first and Thirty-second Divisions, and three others from Brigadier General Todd

gave official credit to the ammunition train for its services in this last drive.

With the signing of the armistice and the cessation of hostilities, the horse battalion, which was commanded by Major Clyde C. Miner, was re-assembled as a unit. Just before the opening of the St. Mihiel offensive, the several companies of the battalion had been assigned to the duty of serving ammunition. The wagon company, under Captain Schuyler C. Scrimger, had the task of supplying the infantry and machine gun outfits with small arms ammunition. The two caisson companies, for tactical purposes, were assigned to duty with the two light artillery regiments of the brigade, Company E, under Captain Pierce L. Shannon, with the 122nd Field Artillery, and Company F, under Captain Peter L. Rusiewicz, with the 124th Field Artillery. It was the duty of these companies to transport ammunition from the advance dumps established by the train to the gun positions of the regiments to which they were assigned. While it was with the 122nd Regiment,



A FOOD DUMP IN THE FORET DE HESSE

Company E suffered heavy casualties, losing seven men killed and twenty-three wounded.

After the fighting ceased the ammunition train continued to function as usual for several days, preparing for a possible renewal of hostilities. Soon, however, its duties became routine. The delivery of food and forage to the several units of the brigade kept the personnel busy until December 24, when moving orders were issued. The brigade assembled in Stenay Christmas Eve, and was held there until January 4, 1919, when the march into Luxemburg was begun. In Luxemburg the brigade rejoined the Thirty-third Division and went into winter quarters. The ammunition train was established in six towns in the vicinity of Mersch, headquarters being at Tuntingen.

On reporting to the Thirty-third Division the ammunition train was assigned to the job of cleaning up all of the matériel left by the Germans in their retreat through Luxemburg. This matériel included several hundred thousand rounds of ammunition, hundreds of cannon of various calibre, and horses and vehicles of every description.

Spring brought the welcome order to prepare for transport home. The trucks, wagons, horses and mules, the caissons and tractors were turned in at ordnance depots. The men entrained at Mersch, for their jaunt across France to Brest, whence they sailed for home on May 12, on the transport Charleston.

The men of the 108th Ammunition Train returned to the United States with a record of which they had every right to be proud. Many of them had been cited for personal bravery, and their organization had won distinguished official recognition. Thirty-five officers and men of the train had lost their lives in France, either in action or as a result of sickness, and forty-three men of the train were entitled to wear wound chevrons.

After landing at Hoboken, the ammunition train remained at Camp Mills until the end of May, then entrained for Chicago, where the artillery brigade's return was celebrated on June 2. Two days later the personnel was mustered out of service at Camp Grant.



THE ROCKY GATEWAY AT PONTARLIER



A LINE OF TRUCKS AT SEPTFONTAINES

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*First Lieutenant*

Byron B. Carmichael

*Battalion Sergeant Major*

John J. McShane

*Sergeants*

Charles H. Cullom  
Olaf Iverson  
Hugh P. Murphy  
Harry A. Sargent  
Oliver G. Ward  
Jay A. Weyrick

*Corporals*

Harry Petesch  
John C. O'Connor  
Arthur C. Samuelson  
Russel J. Wheeland

*Wagoners*

John Duncan  
Ervin F. Grant  
William A. Pope

*Privates, First Class*

Charles E. Green  
Gust S. Soranden  
Ben H. Taylor

*Privates*

John R. Brassel  
Gordon J. Campbell  
Frank E. Gaal  
Ernest E. Grant  
Benjamin F. Haecker  
Paul O. Hansen  
Charles O. Harmon  
George G. Lucy  
Thomas Moss  
Arthur W. Mellor  
Daniel J. O'Brien  
John Parutis  
Louis Peterson  
Max Shore  
Bernard A. Taylor  
Frank G. Tenka  
Frank H. Weaver

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN WHO WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES FOR ESPECIALLY MERITORIOUS AND CONSPICUOUS SERVICE

*Lieutenant Colonel*

Walter J. Fisher

*Captain*

Don M. Phelps

*Sergeants*

Daniel F. Lumbra  
William A. McCormick  
Thomas J. Tracey



CAPTAINS OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN

Top row: Frank L. Alloway, Frank H. Cull, Patrick J. Dineen, Alexander M. Donnelly.

Second row: John A. Hartman, Leo A. Lanigan, Paul L. Moon.

Third row: Sigmund Newfield, Thomas E. Nolan, John J. O'Hearn.

Bottom row: Orvil O'Neal, Don M. Phelps, Peter L. Rusiewicz, Schuyler S. Scrimger.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN WHO WERE CITED FOR  
GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

*Lieutenant Colonel*  
Walter J. Fisher

*Corporal*  
Claude Armstrong

*Captains*  
John J. O'Hearn (Chaplain)  
Don M. Phelps

*Wagoners*  
William J. Brown  
Martin Cavanaugh  
Ernest Eckel  
Albert Johnson  
Scott A. Malcolm  
Arthur J. Meuser  
James Murphy  
Hilding W. Ohlson  
Joseph Reznicek  
Ralph H. Tomlin  
Robert E. Walsh

*First Lieutenant*  
Robert D. Ronayne

*Second Lieutenant*  
Edward McKernan

*Sergeants*  
Arthur E. Black  
† James Flaherty  
Charles E. Keating  
Daniel F. Lumbr  
John A. Martin  
William A. McCormick  
Frank O'Connor  
Phillip O'Neill  
Thomas J. Tracey  
Clarence E. Tripp

*Privates, First Class*  
Michael Healy  
Melker I. Sund

*Privates*  
Gerald Hefferman  
Edwin Kluga  
Stanley P. Salata  
John L. Schalk  
Victor Van Hook



MAJORS OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN  
Left to right: Samuel N. Sorensen, Ole Olson, Clyde C. Miner.



## OFFICERS OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN

Top row: Captains Pierce L. Shannon, Froman Smith, H. E. N. Stine, Edd R. Turner.  
 Second row: Captain Preston W. Whitaker, Lieutenants B. B. Carmichael, M. S. Cash, H. J. Doyle.  
 Third row: Lieutenants Layman D. Evans, E. H. Fiebig, Stephen Pavlack, R. D. Ronayne.  
 Bottom row: Lieutenants Walter R. Scanlon, H. W. Vogt, Edward Cuyler, John J. Houlihan.



## OFFICERS OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN WHO SERVED OVERSEAS



MAJOR JOSEPH W. GOLDING

*Lieutenant Colonel*  
Walter J. Fisher

*Majors*  
Joseph W. Golding, D. C.  
Clyde C. Miner  
Ole Olson, M. C.  
Samuel N. Sorensen

*Captains*  
Frank L. Alloway, M. C.  
Frank H. Cull  
Patrick J. Dineen  
Alexander M. Donnelly  
John A. Hartman  
Leo A. Lanigan  
Paul L. Moon  
Thomas E. Nolan  
John J. O'Hearn, Chaplain  
Don M. Phelps  
Peter L. Rusiewicz  
Schuyler C. Scrimger  
Pierce L. Shannon  
Froman Smith  
Harry E. N. Stine  
Edd R. Turner  
Preston W. Whitaker, M. C.



## ON THE AVOCOURT-VERY ROAD

American ambulances, with wounded, moving south from Véry. On this road, on October 8, 1918, the enemy bombed the headquarters of the horse battalion of the ammunition train.

*First Lieutenants*

Harold A. Badger, D. C.  
 Byron B. Carmichael, D. C. (deceased)  
 Mitchell S. Cash  
 Lyman D. Evans  
 Edwin H. Fiebig  
 John H. Gilbert  
 Cecil J. Gridley  
 Fred J. Leppert (later Captain)  
 Robert D. Ronayne  
 Stephen Pavlack  
 Walter R. Scanlon, D. C.

Harry W. Vogt  
 Thomas J. Walsh

*Second Lieutenants*

Clarence Barb, Veterinarian  
 Thomas J. Dineen  
 Ray M. Higgins  
 John J. Houlihan  
 Clive J. Kimbrough  
 Edward McKernan  
 Holbert E. Norton  
 Harold G. Ward (later First Lieutenant)

## OFFICERS WHO SERVED WITH TRAIN DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD

*Lieutenant Colonels*

John M. Clasby  
 John V. Clinnin (later Colonel)

Arthur S. O'Neill  
 Daniel T. Quinlan  
 Alex W. Swenson

*Majors*

Maurice J. Holway  
 Joseph Moore

*Captains*

James J. Dineen (later Major)  
 Sigmund Newfield  
 Orvil O'Neal

*First Lieutenants*

Harvey J. Doyle  
 William A. Feeney

*Second Lieutenants*

Wilbur H. Collins  
 Patrick Cronin  
 Edward Cuyler  
 Richard Iverson (later First Lieutenant)  
 John F. Meehan  
 William R. Melzer  
 Elmer J. Meinken (later First Lieutenant)  
 Walter L. Whittaker



SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN

Left to right: J. Clive Kimbrough, Edward McKernan, William R. Melzer, Robert E. Norton.



MONT DES ALLIEUX, BATTERED BY THE TRENCH MORTARS

## The 108th Trench Mortar Battery

BY CAPTAIN CHARLES J. KRAFT



WAR, changed but little in its general features in the centuries since gunpowder swept away the heroics of mediaeval conflict, underwent radical modifications in the years from 1914 to 1918. In the air, under the sea, in sub-surface labyrinths on land, the soldiers in the World War found themselves forced to new methods and new devices. In this military transformation the trench mortar emerged as an effective instrument of short-range combat. And among the few American units that had the distinction of serving actively in this new phase of an ancient art was an Illinois organization, the 108th Trench Mortar Battery.

The battery was organized at Camp Logan, with the machine gun company of the old sixth Illinois Infantry as a nucleus. The machine gunners of the Sixth were Geneseo men, who had been called to the colors, under Captain Frank Waldheim, on March 26, 1917. They began training at Springfield a week later, but in May were ordered to East St. Louis, to assist in quelling race riots.

The summer of 1917 was spent in guard duty, but in September the machine gun company was ordered, with the rest of the Sixth Infantry, to Camp Logan, to become part of the Thirty-third Division. Shortly after the company reached the Texas camp, Captain Waldheim was appointed supply

officer of the 123rd Field Artillery and his two lieutenants—First Lieutenant Joseph L. Shaw and Second Lieutenant H. T. Johnson—were transferred to other units. Their places were filled by Captain William A. Warn, First Lieutenant Cullins and Second Lieutenant Earl G. Smith. At the same time the company was made a part of the 124th Machine Gun Battalion. On October 8 a new alignment of forces was made. Captain Warn's



CLEARING CAMP LOGAN

company was transferred to the artillery brigade, and was designated the 108th Trench Mortar Battery, a type of artillery new to the American army.

Officers and men were delighted over the opportunity to participate in the development of a new arm, but their ardor was dampened somewhat by the fact that no mortars were available. Lacking real guns, they had to make dummies out of tree trunks. Moreover, the substitutes themselves were subject to change. New types were introduced, sometimes as often as once a week, and since no one knew what sort of mortars finally would be issued, the battery had to drill with horse-drawn dummies one day and motorized pieces the next. Practice in sighting and emplacement was quite out of the question. The officers were not even supplied with blue prints or designs of the mechanism of the guns they would be expected to use in France.

In spite of these discouragements the morale of the battery was kept high. Officers and men accepted their handicaps cheerfully and made the best of the situation.

Early in the winter Captain Frank Frazier, a veteran of the regular army, succeeded Captain Warn as commander of the battery. Lieutenant Cullins was discharged, and First Lieutenants Lawrence K. Lewis and Herbert J. Powell were added to the roster.

The following months brought other changes in personnel. First of all, Lieutenant Bradley C. Mittendorf was transferred from the 124th Field Artillery to become supply officer of the battery in place of Lieutenant Smith. Then Lieutenant Thomas H. Henderson of the 131st Infantry was attached to the battery. Finally, Captain Frazier failed to pass the physical examination for service in France, and was replaced by Captain Charles J. Kraft.

Late in 1917 detachments of new recruits for the Thirty-third Division

arrived. Most of the new men assigned to the trench mortar battery came from Chicago and were excellent material for soldiers. Drilling and the other routine of camp life kept the battery fully occupied during the winter and early spring. The men became perfectly trained in the use of dummies, and it was realized that only a short period of practice with real mortars would be necessary to fit them for actual warfare.

Orders to break camp, which had been awaited impatiently, came on May 14. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon the battery had left Camp Logan and it arrived at Camp Merritt, N. J., five days later. After a week at this camp, during which the men received new equipment, orders were received to board the Kashmir, a British transport. The battery sailed on May 27.

The passage was uneventful and the battery landed at Liverpool on June 7. After spending four days in English rest camps, the men embarked at Southampton and crossed to Havre on the Viper, an overcrowded channel steamer. Two days of railroad travel carried the battery to the vicinity of Ornans, where the men had their first genuine rest. On the following day, June 15, training quarters were established in the pretty village of Montgesaye, in the foot hills of the Juras.

The hospitality of the French people and the beauty of the country made the stay in Montgesaye one to be remembered. More important, however, was the fact that in their new station the men of the battery obtained real trench mortars—6-inch Newtons.

Captain Kraft and Lieutenant Henderson were sent to a mortar school at Langres, while the battery took up intensive training, which was continued until July 1, when a move to Valdahon was ordered. At Valdahon the battery was equipped with twelve trench mortars and two anti-aircraft guns, and for the first time was able to try out the pieces with which it was to engage the enemy.



CAPTAIN CHARLES J. KRAFT

Energetic training was carried on for almost two months before the battery was ordered to the front. It was August 23 when the command came. The battery moved by rail to Pagny-sur-Meuse, and then marched ten miles to the Toul sector, encamping in the Fôret de la Reine just north of Toul. There the men waited, but the delay was enlivened by the sight of many aerial battles, in which several enemy planes were brought down by American anti-aircraft guns.

On August 31 an advance was made three miles northwest. Instead of being sent to the line, however, the gunners were assigned to military police duty in controlling traffic over the roads leading forward. Here the men experienced their first gas attack, happily without casualties.



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH AT AUBREVILLE

The battery remained in this forward position until September 9, when it was assigned temporarily to the Eighty-ninth Division, and proceeded to M  nil-la-Tour. Most of the march was made through the rain, and when the men reached their destination in the St. Mihiel sector it was necessary for them to sleep on the wet ground, without fires and with rain beating in their faces. With the prospect of action, however, the men made light of such discomforts.

On the St. Mihiel front great activity was noticeable, and it soon became evident that an attack was about to be made. The gunners had to wait no longer than the night of September 11-12. Shortly before midnight they were ordered into action. The barrage began at 1:30 a. m. and continued with



TRENCHES BETWEEN AUBREVILLE AND VRAINCOURT  
These trenches were at one time used as French general headquarters.



#### NONCOMS OF THE BATTERY

Standing: Sergeants Estus and Wert, First Sergeant Berg, Sergeants Pobantz and Liken.  
Seated: Sergeants Sheets, Tribbett, Goldbaum, Sandeen and Berge.

great intensity until 5 o'clock, when the infantry went over the top in the drive that smashed the St. Mihiel salient.

The attack was delivered with such force that within a few hours the enemy had been driven out of range of the trench mortars, which had advanced as far as Rémonville. There the battery's first engagement ended. It was cited for the efficiency of its barrage in this attack.

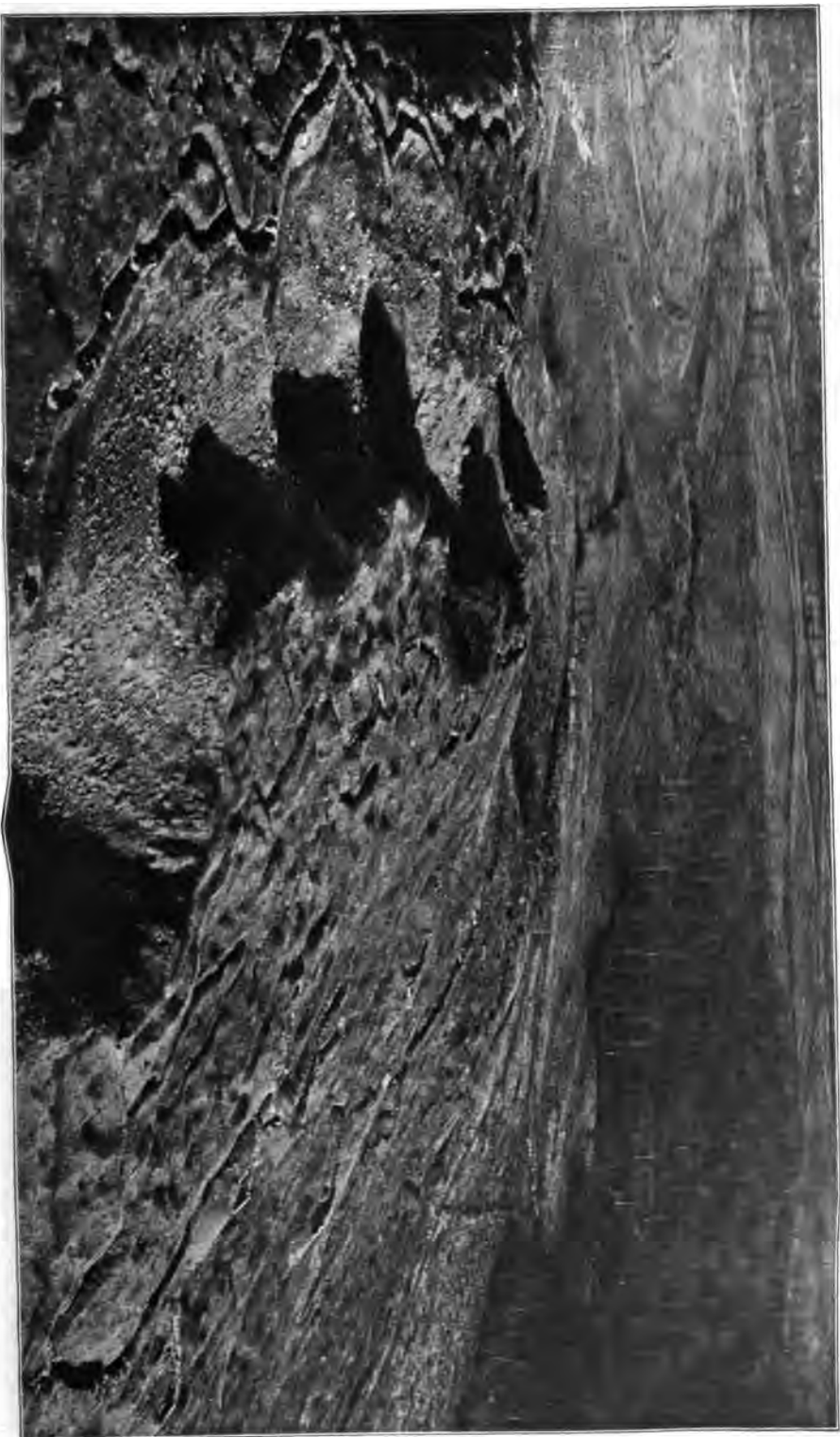
Two days later another move began. Going by way of Boncourt, Pont-sur-Meuse and Autrécourt, the battery reached Vraincourt, a town which had been the object of especially de-

structive shelling by the Germans. The march was made in eight days—a remarkable achievement.

Vraincourt was enjoying a brief freedom from enemy shells. A few old men and women were found there, despite the fact that most of the buildings were in ruins. Unfortunately the battery's coming caused fresh terror for the inhabitants, for on the afternoon of September 25 the Germans discovered the presence of American troops, and renewed the bombardment. High explosive shells and gas bombs rained on the town. An old barn, in which a number of the men of the battery were billeted, was struck by a shell. Chief Mechanic William Berrehus, Waggoners John G. Mapes, Harry E. Wiles and Edwin Knoess, and Privates Albert Johnson and Adolph Erickson were killed. Corporal Anthony Mayer, Waggoner Harry J. Fruit and Private George Scoville were wounded so severely that it was necessary to take them to the Souilly Hospital.

The tragedy made the men of the battery anxious to move forward so that they might hit back at the enemy. Marching orders came that night and action commenced almost immediately, with the opening of the Meuse-Argonne offensive on September 26.

The battery was stationed on Hill 290, northwest of Neuville and Verdun and immediately north of Clermont. Trench mortar emplacements had



VAUQUEVOIS, A FAMOUS ENEMY STRONG-POINT

Where the shells of the trench mortars destroyed the German works on September 26, 1918.





SECOND LIEUTENANT  
THOMAS M. HENDERSON

part of the Meuse sector, where the American advance was being bitterly contested. It was sent to the front in an unusually difficult position at Bald Hill, north of Romagne, where emplacements for the mortars had to be built in the open, in advance of the infantry.

Although the work was done at night, and with the utmost care, the men of the battery constantly were exposed to shell fire and gas attacks. Captain Kraft, Lieutenant Powell and Lieutenant Henderson were wounded while directing the work of their men, but the guns finally were placed and trained on the Germans. On November 7 the battery was relieved and sent to Camp du Courcelles for a well-earned rest. The camp was a collection of shacks,

huddled on the south slope of a small bluff for protection against enemy fire. It was one of the most isolated spots the battery ever encountered, and the uncanny quiet of the place kept most of the men from sleeping. The battery remained at Camp de Courcelles until November 29, 1918. It was then sent to Souilly, an important railway terminus in northern France, to be attached to the headquarters of the First Army.

Guard duty occupied the men's time for six weeks. On January 12 orders to proceed to the port of St. Nazaire brought delight to the battery. The trip to the coast was broken two days later at St. Mathurin, where the battery left the train and marched about twelve kilometers to Corny. Here the battery remained for nearly a month, and then spent two weeks at Braine-sur-l'Anthion, near Angers. Three more days at St. Nazaire and the formalities of embarkation were completed. On February 28, 1919, the battery boarded the United States transport Iowan, bound for home. Hoboken was reached on March 13, and after a week at Camp Merritt the battery started for Chicago. That city gave the gunners, the first unit of the Thirty-third Division to return, an enthusiastic welcome. Once more, then, the battery found itself at Camp Grant, where it was mustered out of service, the last man receiving his discharge on March 31.



SECOND LIEUTENANT  
GEORGE F. GOREY

# THE 108TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY 655

MEN OF THE 108TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION  
DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS.

*Chief Mechanic*

William Berrehus

*Wagoners*

John G. Mapes

Harry E. Wiles

Edwin Knoess

*Privates*

Albert Johnson

Adolph Erickson

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH  
TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY WHO  
WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY  
GENERAL PERSHING

*First Lieutenant*

Herbert J. Powell

*Second Lieutenants*

George F. Gorey

Thomas M. Henderson

*First Sergeant*

Andrew Berg

*Sergeant*

Thomas Liken

*Corporals*

John Milchavik

Lawrence W. Savre



LIEUTENANT JOHN S. PETTIT

## OFFICERS OF THE 108TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY

*Captains*

Charles J. Kraft

Frank Frazier

William W. Warn

John S. Pettit

Herbert J. Powell

*Second Lieutenants*

George F. Gorey

Thomas M. Henderson

Bradley C. Mittendorf

Earl G. Smith

*First Lieutenants*

Lawrence K. Lewis



BATTERY HEADQUARTERS AT SOUILLY



**COLONEL HENRY A. ALLEN**  
Commanding the 108th Engineers.



THE RIVER MEUSE NEAR CONSENSVOYE

## The 108th Engineers

COLONEL HENRY A. ALLEN, EDITOR



**O**RGANIZATION of the 108th Engineers, the youngest regiment of the Thirty-third Division, was not authorized until after the declaration of war. It was the first unit of the Prairie Division to be ordered into the trenches, where it began a war career that won high praise from American, British and French leaders. It returned home with a record not excelled by that of any other Illinois unit.

Company A, organized in 1911, was the only engineer unit that had been authorized for the Illinois National Guard when the war with Germany began. This company, after its return from service on the Mexican border with other national guard organizations, had on its rolls about thirty-five men, who had subscribed to the Hay oath and who were ready for service. A number of patriotic young men had formed Provisional Company B, and secured the pledges of more than fifty men to enlist in case of war.

The Citizens' Unit, First Regiment, Illinois Engineers, was incorporated in the fall of 1916 for the purpose of assisting in the recruiting of an engineer regiment when authority should be obtained to form such an organization.

On May 17, 1917, Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Allen, chief engineer



WALLACE H. WHIGAM

A Lieutenant Colonel of the 108th Engineers.

of the Illinois National Guard, was instructed to organize the First Regiment, Illinois Engineers. The commanding officer received his commission as colonel, commanding the First Regiment, Illinois Engineers, on June 22. A week later Company A was ordered to Rockford, reporting on July 2 to receive recruits and assist in the establishment of Camp Grant.

An energetic and systematic recruiting campaign was launched at once under the auspices of the Citizens' Unit. The drive succeeded so well that Colonel Allen reported his regiment at maximum strength upon the President's call for mobilization on July 25. The city authorities of Chicago gave the regiment the use of the Municipal Pier as an armory.

and a drill field was provided near at hand. There the recruits were given a brief course of intensive training. In August the Western Society of Engineers presented a stand of colors to the regiment, and a little later another set was given by the Chicago Daily News. Except for the ceremonies attending these presentations the midsummer months were devoted entirely to drill, so that it was a soldierly looking regiment which early in September entrained for Camp Logan, where other Illinois guardsmen also were assembling.

At the Texas camp the engineers found an abundance of work awaiting them. They erected the large Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, built an artistic and substantial gateway at the camp entrance, constructed several large and many small bridges, designed and ran levels for sewer and drainage systems, and made surveys for encampments and target ranges. They did all of this work and at the same time trained so well that the chief of engineers of the United States army twice commended them.

By April, 1918, the regiment, now the 108th Engineers, had attained the proficiency required for overseas service. It entrained for Camp Merritt on April 23, almost a fortnight ahead of the main body of the Thirty-third Division. At the eastern camp the interval before sailing was not wasted. Barracks, grounds and roads were improved before the regiment sailed from Hoboken on May 7 on the transport George Washington.

The regiment disembarked at Brest, and was quartered at the famous Pontanezen barracks. Here the energetic Illinoisans again were found useful, being called on for such tasks as repairing the water works and electric light

plant of Brest, erecting a Y. M. C. A. building, and constructing many barracks.

After a week marching orders came. The entire regiment proceeded to Oisemont. With the exception of Company A, which was detailed to complete the camp, the companies were assigned to nearby training areas.

Taking stock of equipment, the regimental staff found that a great deal of material had been lost because of the system of pooling freight. Important photographic, lithographic and office equipment and valuable regimental records were among the articles missing. The regiment found it necessary to begin its final period of training with little equipment other than the personal effects of the officers and men. Right on the heels of that misfortune came an order from headquarters to turn in the Springfield rifles with which the regiment was equipped.

When Colonel Allen was asked how soon his regiment would be ready to move he replied: "As soon as furnished with rifles and properly fitting gas masks." Enfield rifles and satisfactory masks were supplied in the next two days, and on June 12 the men moved into the zone of operations to start their service under fire.

They went into the Albert-Amiens sector with the British on the Somme. The first battalion was assigned to the Third British Corps, and the second battalion, headquarters, and engineer train to the Australian Corps, both corps being part of the Fourth British Army. Transport equipment was gradually supplied, first by loans from the British and finally by issue.

The regiment rendered real service from the start. Detachments were



CLEANING UP CAMP LOGAN

sent into the line, the 108th having the honor of being the first Prairie Division unit to have men actually in the front-line trenches. The infantry regiments of the division reached the area on June 21 for final training. Their first chance at action came on July 4, in an attack with the Australians at Hamel.

Even when out of the trenches the men were under shell fire constantly, for the various units of the regiment were within close range of the German artillery. Moreover, details frequently were pressed into service for work with raiding parties. They cut wire, patrolled No Man's Land, repaired



A STREET SCENE IN CAMP PONTANEZEN

damaged wire and trenches, and when the opportunity offered itself took a hand in the actual fighting.

Officers and men of the regiment were infiltrated with tunnel, railway, and pioneer companies of the British Royal Engineers. They built miles of trenches and entanglements, constructed concertinas and revetments for trenches, designed and constructed machine gun emplacements and turrets, constructed railroads, built strong-points, roads and bridges, and kept up intensive training to insure the highest efficiency.

During the entire period of service with the British, Companies D, E and F worked in rotation at a hazardous task on the Somme near Corbie. It was necessary to maintain a crossing there for ammunition and supply wagons, and the activity of the enemy's artillery made it impossible for a permanent bridge to be built. Instead a "silent" bridge was used. The engineers threw it across the river at 9 o'clock every night for six weeks, kept it in repair

**MAP  
SOMME OF FENSIVE  
JUNE - JULY - AUGUST, 1916.  
AREA OF ACTIVITY.  
108 ENGINEERS**

**LEGEND:**  
Company location, \*  
Front line June 1916, ---  
Front line Aug. 1916, —

**SCALE: 1:100,000**

MAP  
SOMME OF FENSIVE  
JUNE-JULY-AUGUST, 1916.  
AREA OF ACTIVITY.  
108th ENGINEERS  
SCALE, 1:100,000  
LEGEND:  
Company location, \*  
Front line June 18, 1916, ---  
Front line Aug. 14, 1916, ---



under shell fire and dismantled and concealed it at 4 o'clock the following morning. The bridge was often damaged by shells, and gas attacks frequently were launched by the enemy in attempts to prevent supplies from coming forward. Only the thoroughness of the regiment's training in gas defense prevented heavy casualties.

Company B went into the line as a unit on July 23, relieving the 513th Field Company, Royal Engineers, in support of a Thirty-third Division infantry regiment—the 131st—which had replaced a British brigade. The sector covered a front of about a mile and an eighth, 500 yards east of the city of Albert.

At the outset new trenches had to be dug, for the enemy had retired across the Ancre River to a line 2,000 yards away from the American positions. Infantrymen dug the trenches under the supervision of officers and noncommissioned officers of the 108th. In some cases the German dugouts and shelters were used. As these had been mined and laid with traps, careful inspection by engineers was necessary. Innumerable crafty devices of the enemy were exposed by experts of the 108th.

In addition to this work Company B had to carry on thorough reconnaissance in preparation for the advance planned by the British. The banks of the Ancre were carefully surveyed, so that places for a crossing might be located. The Germans kept up a steady fire on the working parties. Companies A and C alternated in the work.

On August 6, after the regiment had been made temporarily a part of the Third British Corps, Companies D and F were sent to Glisy Wood to prepare a road for a cavalry attack planned for the morning of August 8. Despite heavy bombardment, which not infrequently drove the men to shelter, the engineers built a good road from the reserve line to the line of outposts, a distance of three miles. Shell holes were filled in, trenches were blocked, and markers were set up. At daybreak on the morning of the attack, as they lay beside their rifles in line with Canadian infantrymen, the engineers had the satisfaction of seeing 15,000 British cavalrymen, accompanied by artillery and tanks, dash over the new-made road for an attack beyond Hangar Woods—an attack which proved to be of great importance. After the advance the roads were continued through the captured area to make possible the bringing up of rations and supplies.

For the work done by Companies D and F, the 108th received the praise of British leaders and of General Bell, the division commander. The British Military Medal was awarded to Sergeants William Ward and Simon deLagneau Hay, both of whom had served with Company F. The British indicated a desire to award other decorations, but because all the officers and men had performed their tasks so well and there had been no one from outside to observe the company's work, it was decided that, rather than run the risk of unfair discrimination, such medals should not be accepted.

Meanwhile Company E had participated in two important actions. On August 8 the company was ordered to reconstruct a standard gauge railroad

from Longeau to Villers-Bretonneux. The road, as the Illinois engineers found it, was a mass of twisted steel and shattered ties. Cuts had been filled with débris and grades demolished. But the engineers showed such ingenuity that in three nights, although working under fire, they had the railroad practically ready for use.

The task was then turned over to Canadian engineers, so that Company E might go to the main line of defense in front of Morlancourt to construct strong-points and to stretch wire. This work was done under heavy fire, which caused nine casualties, but it was finished by one platoon in nine nights. The second platoon, on duty in the same area, filled in shell holes and trenches, and removed barriers, in order that a line of communication could be opened.



#### IN FORGES SWAMP

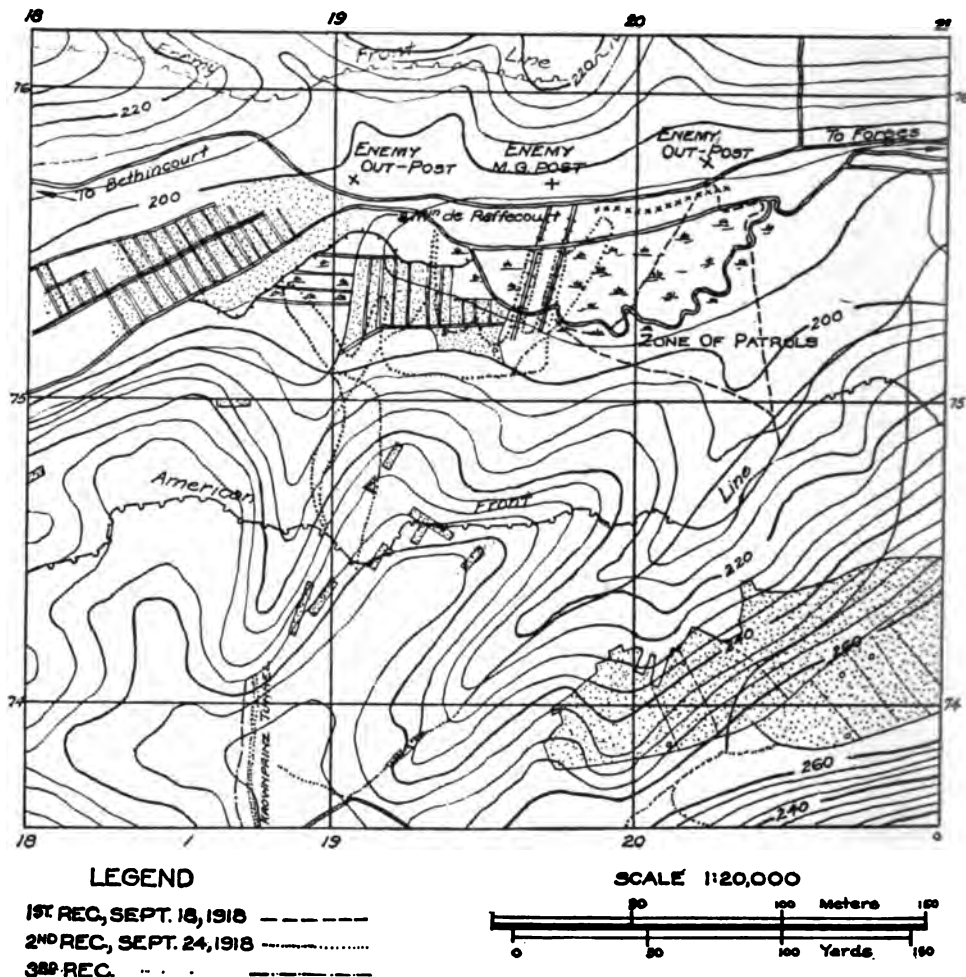
The beginning of one of the nine passerelles built by the engineers.

The other companies were occupied during the attack in equally hazardous duties at various points on the British front.

Service with the British ended on August 24. The regiment traveled in crowded cars to Stainville, where it was announced that the Thirty-third Division had been attached to the Fifth Corps, First Army, A. E. F.

Strenuous training was continued until September 1, when the regiment moved to Géry. There the work was resumed, with special attention to bombing, bayonet practice and target drill. A third move, five days later, landed the regiment in Nixéville-du-Sud, but the stay there was brief.

On September 8 orders directing the regiment to proceed to the famous battlefield of Verdun were received. Companies D, E and F went at once into the forward area of sub-sectors—Hill 304, Dead Man's Hill, Cumières and Talou. On September 9 Company C went to the front, one platoon



RECONNAISSANCES MADE BY THE 108TH ENGINEERS  
Prior to the offensive of September 26.

going to Esnes and the rest of the company to Montzéville, where Company F subsequently reported. Headquarters and headquarters company moved to Sivry-la-Perche two days later, and on September 15 the first battalion, with the engineer train, went to Souhesme-la-Grande.

The entire regiment commenced preparations at once for the expected attack on the German positions beyond Forges Creek, which follows the valley at the foot of Dead Man's Hill. Material was assembled, the German defenses were surveyed, and important reconnaissances were made in Forges valley and along the Meuse.

The tours along the Forges were especially dangerous and vital. To find safe crossings through the shell-pitted, swampy valley, the engineer night reconnaissance parties crossed the creek bottom at least twelve times.

They were under fire constantly, but, working skillfully, they avoided detection and danger of capture.

Shell holes full of water were marked and other danger spots noted. In the meantime material needed for the construction of passages for the advance of the infantry was carried forward rapidly and stored in trenches.



A HASTY BRIDGE AT FORGES

On September 23, in anticipation of the attack, all units of the regiment, with the exception of Company D and headquarters company, moved into the forward trenches. Two days later Company D was assigned to build passages of the Forges for the 131st Infantry. Company E was assigned to the 132nd, which also was to attack. The other companies were detailed to carry material forward.

Just after midnight on September 26 the real work commenced. Fascines, duck-boards and planking were carried forward, and Companies D and E began the construction of paths and bridges. Eight crossings were made ready, in spite of the fact that great quantities of brush and wire had to be cleared away by men standing up to their waists in water, without



SIX HUNDRED METERS OF CORDUROY

A road built by the 108th Engineers across Forges Swamp.

lights and under constant artillery fire. One bridge was struck by shells. Before the jump-off, however, the infantry commanders were notified that the crossings had been completed.

The attacking troops set out, following the engineers' tapes down to the valley, then threading their way through the maze of shell holes, wire and morass, in lanes and over bridges prepared by the 108th. A shell struck one of the bridges, setting it swaying under the feet of the advancing infantrymen. Seeing that the bridge was in danger of collapsing, several of the engineers leaped into the water and put their shoulders to the insecure flooring.

Major J. J. Bullington of the 132nd Infantry was leading his battalion through the fog when suddenly from beneath his feet came a voice:

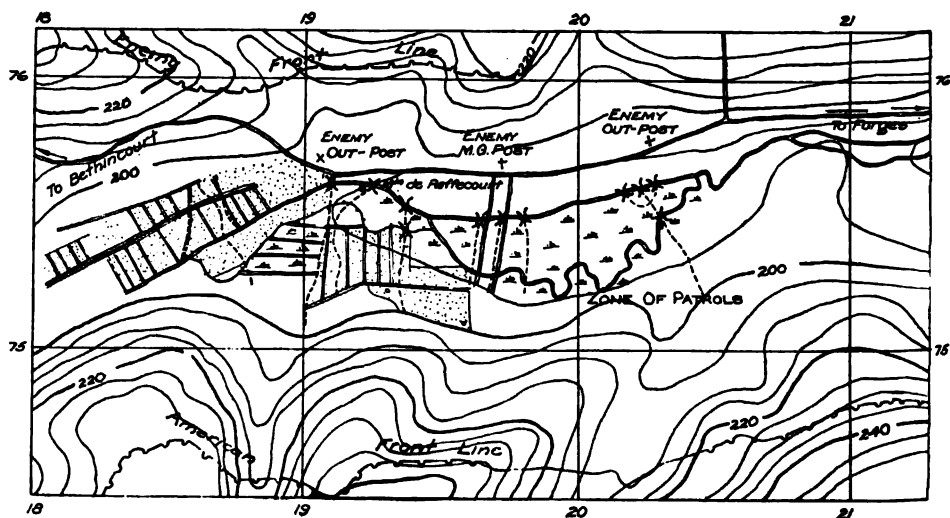
"Give 'em hell, boys!"

"Who are you?" ejaculated the major.

"I'm a sergeant of the 108th Engineers," the voice replied. "I'm holding up this bridge."

Less than an hour after the infantry regiments had gone forward, Company C advanced in extended order toward the objective. At Forges Creek a hail of machine gun fire checked the company and caused two casualties. At the trench line from which the Germans had just been driven by the infantry eight prisoners were taken. A machine gun nest gave trouble near Drilancourt. It was silenced by rifle and automatic rifle fire after a sharp fight, and the company continued its march, reaching the objective at noon.

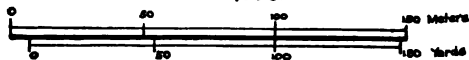
Meanwhile Company F had crossed the swamp after the assault echelon of the 132nd Infantry. The infantry line in Forges Wood was reached at 10 o'clock, and the engineers dug trenches for the tired doughboys.



#### LEGEND

BRIDGE ( )  
PASSAGE - - - - -

SCALE: 1:20,000.



MAP SHOWING PASSAGES AND BRIDGES ACROSS FORGES CREEK AND SWAMP

Constructed by the 108th Engineers.



ON THE ROAD NEAR FORGES

The other companies shoved roads forward for horse transport, contributing to the important victory which had swept the Germans back from positions held since early in the war to a new line beyond the Meuse.

Preparations for building a road across the newly captured ground had been made long before the attack. The engineers had made many reconnaissances, had selected a route, and were all ready to begin work. Ground, well in advance, was surveyed almost as rapidly as the infantry gained it.

On September 26, while the battle was in progress, construction was begun. The engineers were under shell fire all day, for the enemy concentrated shrapnel on his abandoned positions. One man was killed and several were wounded. That losses were not heavier was due to the skill of commanding officers in disposing their men.

The top of the ridge opposite Dead Man's Hill was reached by night, though the marshy creek bottom intervened. An abandoned light railway line was followed, since it afforded a foundation of solid ground, where it had not been ripped to pieces by shell fire. A corduroy road,



SANDBAG REVETMENT OVER TRENCH

with four bridges, was built and was in shape to carry horse transport by October 1. A few days later heavy artillery used it, and advanced to the front. The entire road was reinforced with stone and was camouflaged carefully before the regiment left the sector.

This road, extending from Cumières to Raffecourt, was not the only one leading to the new line. The 108th also repaired a highway running from Cumières to Forges. Since it was an old road it was shelled heavily, and several men were wounded. It was placed in good order, however, and rendered valuable service.

Details from the regiment also worked on half a dozen other roads, keeping them in repair. All of this was accomplished without road-building equipment.



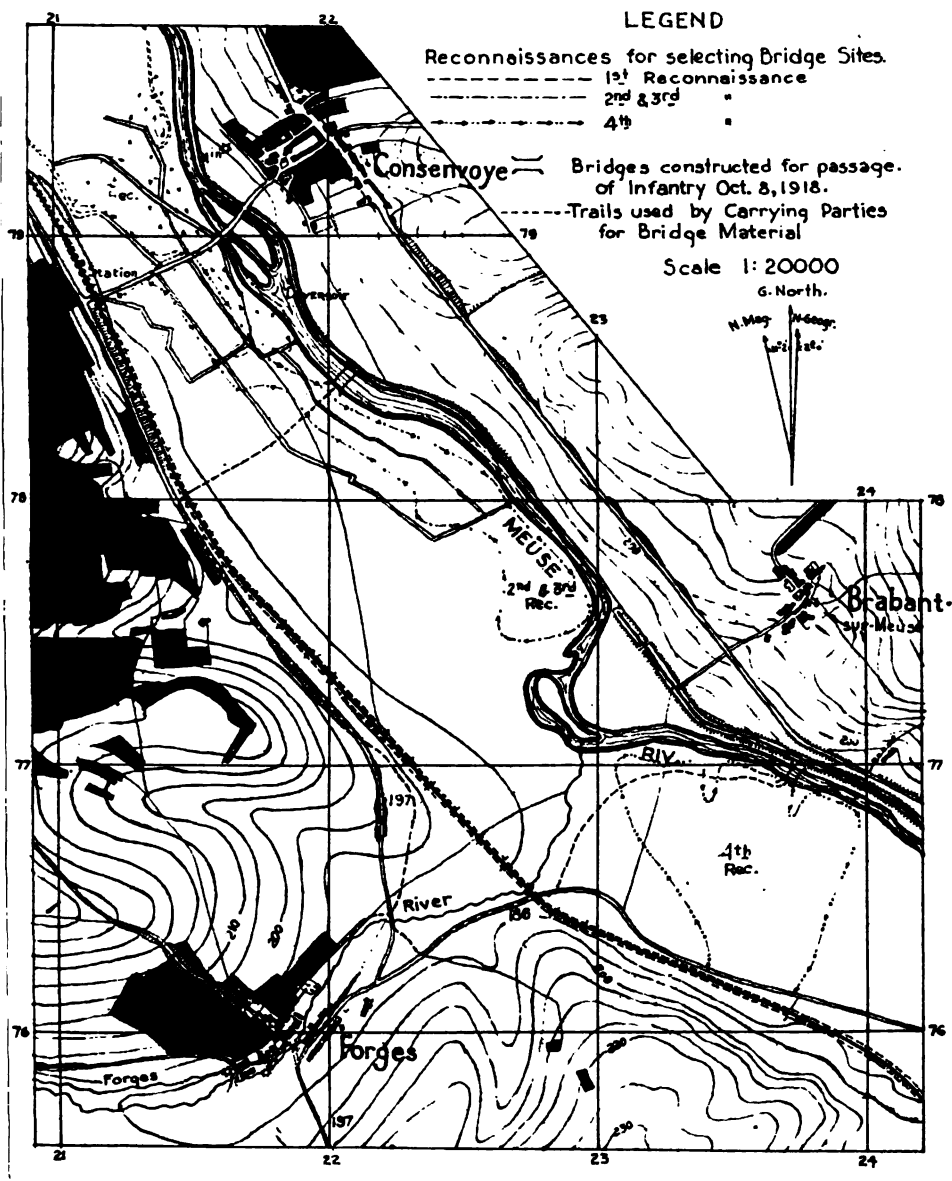
PASSERALLE OVER THE MEUSE AT BRABANT

On October 2, while a considerable part of the regiment was still building roads, detachments were sent on reconnaissances to gather information about possible crossings of the Meuse. Having driven the Germans across the river, the division commanders were preparing a new attack for the purpose of clearing the ridges overlooking the stream.

After carefully surveying the river, the chief engineer recommended that pontoons or portable floating foot-bridges be used. The French reported, however, that pontoons were not available, and efforts to obtain the portable foot-bridges were unsuccessful. At the last minute it became evident that the engineers would have to make the most of crude material.

Further confusion was caused by a delay in field orders. Although verbal information was given on October 6 that the 108th would be expected

Map showing Reconnaissances of Meuse River for Bridge Sites.  
Location of Bridges Erected, and Trails used by Carrying Parties, 108th Engineers.



PREPARATIONS FOR CROSSING THE MEUSE RIVER





ANOTHER VIEW OF THE MEUSE AT BRABANT

to build two bridges for infantry, one near Brabant and the other near Consenvoye, written orders were not received until late the following day. Even then the time for constructing the bridges was not set. It was said that the work of the engineers would depend on the progress of the attacking troops,

for premature construction would not only expose the bridges to fire but also would inform the enemy of the nature and direction of the movement.

The engineers, however, seized such material as was available. Heavy timbers had been provided previously. In addition lumber obtained from captured German entrenchments was utilized.

Company E began building the Brabant bridge before daylight on October 8. The Germans were not aware of the activity at first, but at 5:30 they began to shell the positions. Although the bridge site had been selected with the German artillery in mind, the high, protect-



CANAL BRIDGE AT CONSENSVOYE



REBUILDING THE BRIDGE AT CONSENVOYE, OCTOBER 12, 1918

ing bank did not prevent shells from falling dangerously near the working parties. One man was killed and several wounded by a shell which struck near the west approach. The bridge, however, was completed on time. The infantry was notified, and marched over in safety, though shells caused some casualties before the Meuse was reached.

Shortly after the doughboys had crossed at Brabant, the commander of the other infantry column sent word that he was ready to advance. Companies C and B had been waiting for the signal. They set to work without delay on a foot-bridge near Consenvoye. The river was deep and wide at the location selected, but within five and one-half hours the bridge had been built and the infantry had crossed the stream. This work was done under direct enemy observation and shell fire.

Meanwhile, Company F had repaired the Samogneux-Consenvoye road to facilitate forward transport of ammunition and rations. The men worked under fire, but only two



A DETAIL OF THE SCENE ABOVE



THE CAUSEWAY ACROSS THE MEUSE VALLEY

casualties were sustained. Building roads and bridges was not their only work. As the infantrymen advanced, driving the enemy out of the woods beyond the Meuse, the engineers examined dugouts for booby traps and located and neutralized road mines. They captured forty-five prisoners and took possession of a gasoline locomotive abandoned by the enemy. It was repaired and put in service while the battle was still raging.

On October 9 Company B and a platoon of Company E were ordered to repair the main bridges in the causeway across the Meuse at Consenvoye. The bridges had been wrecked by artillery fire, but clever use of material found in German dumps enabled the engineers to put the entire system in shape for use



MILL RACE BRIDGE AT CONSENSVOYE

before night. The enemy continued shelling the bridge, but did little damage.

By this time the infantry units had driven the enemy out of the woods beyond the Meuse and were digging in. The engineers were called to organize the captured territory. Roads were built or repaired over ground torn by shells. Road mines were removed and shell holes filled. Several small bridges were built and road signs were erected. A German narrow-gauge railroad had fallen into the hands of the Americans. The 108th repaired the tracks, put locomotives in working order, and extended the line for use in carrying forward ammunition.



HASTY REPAIRS TO THE CANAL BRIDGE AT CONSENVOYE

As soon as the new area had been consolidated the regiment was assigned to the duty of maintaining the roads. Lacking proper equipment the engineers found the work difficult, for traffic was heavy. They succeeded, however, in keeping the highways ready for all kinds of transport.

On October 19 the Thirty-third Division was relieved by French troops. The 108th, in two columns, moved to Verdun citadel and thence to billets in villages nearby. Equipment was repaired, and the men rested after their extraordinary labors of more than a month.

It was only a respite, however. On October 25 the regiment accompanied other units of the Thirty-third Division to the vicinity of Tilly-sur-Meuse. There it relieved the 304th Engineers and entered upon a period of varied service. In November the 108th was to take part in offensive opera-



**BRIDGE AT RIAVILLE**

On the road leading southward; built by the 108th Engineers.

tions, send out fighting patrols, make reconnaissances, operate engineer dumps, set up camouflage, run a sawmill, erect and manage baths and laundries, take care of water supplies, operate a railroad, repair roads, demolish dams and tank barriers, destroy "duds," build culverts and bridges, and attend to innumerable other matters, all in an engineer's day's work.



**BARBER SHOP IN BOIS ST. REMY**

Tilly-sur-Meuse was in the center of the Troyon-Chaillon sector. The division was holding a front of about eight miles, opposite some of the strongest positions in the German defense system. Not only were lines of communication necessarily long, but the front was so far-flung that the Illinois troops were at a disadvantage. The length of the front greatly added to the work of the engineers. They had to keep roads and railways in good condition, to make reconnaissances along the whole sector, and to perform the daily routine duties of

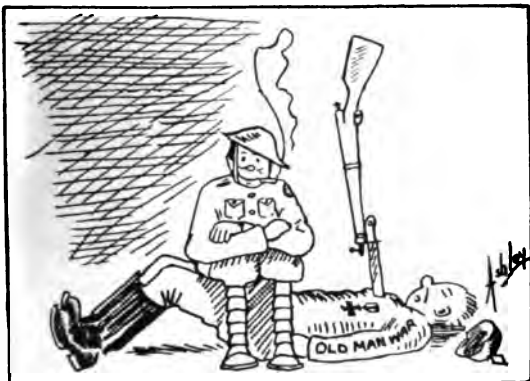
# Trey 108 Bun

VOL. I. NO. 1.

PUBLISHED BY THE 108TH ENGINEERS.  
NOV. 24TH. 1918.

PRICELESS

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



## EDITORIAL

FROM:- US  
TO:- OUR READERS  
SUBJECT:- THIS SHEET

1. Greetings To you:

This little paper is issued for your approval and enjoyment and to enlighten you as to the doings of your fellow engineers. 2. Now that the heretofore popular pastime of bashing the Hun on the bean has become obsolete, we are compelled to look elsewhere and otherwise for a new diversion, one that will fill the gap of thrills and still be well within the bounds of a world safe for democracy. HENCE THIS SHEET.

3. Our motto will be:

"The best to the most;  
Honesty and Simplicity."  
4. Simplicity and brevity the one for convenience, the other of necessity - will be our aim.

5. To please and amuse all, is our highest ambition

EDITOR

## HUGE CONFLAGRATION BRAVE FIREMEN ON THE JOB. OPERA-HOUSE BURNS

TREY-SUN-REDAUX, Nov. 23.

On last Saturday night a fire of unknown origin was discovered on the roof of our opera-house. The alarm was sounded and was responded to "foot-sweat". Brave firemen scrambled to the dizzy heights and succeeded in quenching the flames.

No lives were lost, nor will there be any wound chevrons issued. No damage done.

### IMPORTANT

Our press broke down, we expect it to every week, so you don't all get one. But TREY BUN is for the bulletin boards and don't let any copies get into your trunk or the waste basket.

## LOCALS

NEWS BRIEVITIES FROM OUR REGIMENT.

Have you seen those cute little yellow-cross insignia?

Hunt up that can of dubbin, you'll probably need it now.

A great many are now contemplating a trip to the old country.

German helmets are as common and numerous as our old friend Kootie.

## NOTICE

Contributions for these columns solicited, both financial and otherwise.

You may leave same at the Topographical Office. They must be brief (not the financial) and to the point. Those of pronounced merit only will be considered.

Snap it up! Get those live snappy news items in for the next issue.

It is the intention of the Editors to devote certain columns each week to the Companies, each Company or detachment will have its own reporters and they will forward to this office all copy not later than Sunday of each week. So get busy with a live, wide awake representative for your outfit. DO IT NOW so you will be in the next issue. Address all copy to TREY BUN. Topographical Office. Headquarters. 108th Engineers.

Tilly France

KEEP YOUR EYE PEELED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE, IT'LL BE HOT STUFF - Ed.



BRIDGE BETWEEN ST. HILAIRE AND BUTGNEVILLE

an engineer regiment.

Soon after the division's transfer to the new sector it was announced that an offensive would be launched on November 10 or 11. Without delay patrols were sent out by the 108th to locate traps, to survey roads, and to determine the nature of the German defenses.

Other patrols were dispatched, at the request of infantry commanders, to cut lanes through the wire and to make other hazardous preparations for the attack. Although not properly the duty of engineers, this work was done efficiently and promptly, and it won the praise of infantry officers.

On the eve of the attack, Company A and Company D were placed at the disposal of the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade to coöperate in the advance. The other companies were placed in strategic positions to keep roads repaired and to lend aid to the attacking troops if necessary.

The two companies attached to the infantry brigade went over the top with the doughboys on the morning of November 11, not knowing it was the final day of the war, and rushed positions which subsequently were found to be unusually strong. The fighting was severe. Engineers and infantrymen suffered heavy casualties but were battling steadily forward when the news of the signing of the armistice put a sudden stop to hostilities.

Orders to cease firing interrupted the most desperate enterprise in which the Thirty-third Division had engaged. It cannot be doubted that the division would have lost heavily in reaching its objectives, for the Germans were strongly entrenched. The men knew what they were facing, however, and they did not flinch.

The armistice was followed by a few days of inaction, during which



THE SQUARE IN ECHTERNACH

Photographed shortly before the beginning of the war.

prisoners released by the Germans were fed, clothed, and sent to the rear. On November 15 the 108th was ordered to assemble at Les Eparges for work in connection with the advance of the Army of Occupation.

Work began the next day. Companies A, B and C completed a bridge at St. Hilaire before nightfall and were ordered forward to clear a way for the troops that were to march into Germany. It was a tremendous task. Much of the terrain had been torn by shell fire. The Germans had mined roads, destroyed bridges, defiled wells, and otherwise attempted to make the area impassable. First of all the 108th had to repair and then patrol a road from St. Maurice to Woël and another from St. Maurice to Hannonville. Two routes had to be laid out from Hannonville. One led to Saulx-en-Woëvre and



THE "Y" HELPED TO MAKE ECHTERNACH ATTRACTIVE

thence to the Fresnes-Marchéville road, Riaville, Pintheville, Pareid, Villers-sous-Pareid, and St. Jean-lès-Buzy. The other ran to Allamont by way of Wadonville, St. Hilaire, Harville and Moulotte.

Twenty-two bridges were built, and the road surface was improved along both routes. At the same time water sources were inspected, 6,000 mines were removed, and traps were destroyed. One casualty was caused by a German mine. Otherwise the great task was finished without accident. The roads were ready by November 18 for the transportation of supplies.

Until November 18 the regiment remained with the Second American Army. Then it joined the Third Army and proceeded into Luxemburg with other units of the Prairie Division. The winter and spring were spent in billets in the duchy. The engineers kept fit by drilling and attending to the other routine incidental to the encampment of a strong force.





#### MAJORS OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS

Left to right: Cornelius A. Leenheer, P. W. Swern, Dwight D. Guilfoil.

In May, 1918, the regiment returned to the United States as part of the Thirty-third Division, participated in the homecoming celebration in Chicago and was mustered out of the service at Camp Grant in June.

The 108th Engineers passed out of existence with an enviable record. Hurriedly organized and trained, and possessing little military experience, the engineers nevertheless performed all tasks promptly and well. When need be, they fought. When duty took them under fire, they worked as carefully, as quickly and as successfully as when behind the lines.

Brigadier General Wolf, commander of the Sixty-sixth Infantry Brigade, Thirty-third Division, epitomized the record of the 108th on September 26, 1918, when he said in orders: "The courage and tenacity of the engineers, who had to precede the infantry, and who remained to repair and to hold the bridges over which the infantry passed, under fire of the enemy, is to be especially commended."

The final word of praise, however, came from Major General Bell, who wrote: "The work of the 108th Engineers was magnificent."



#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Secretary Baker and the Crown Prince of Belgium at the division review.

## MEN OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

### *Sergeants*

Hiram Helman  
Henry A. Rathert

### *Corporals*

George R. Cherrie  
Ralph Durbin  
Frank P. Frandsen  
Paul L. Sloan  
Harry R. Stenbom

### *Cooks*

Meyer Gainsberg  
John R. Holloway  
Edward Moore

### *Privates, First Class*

Emmet M. Casey  
Allen D. Halliday  
Witold Rachas  
Cleveland Tillman

### *Privates*

Frank E. Addam  
Charles G. Carr  
Matthew J. Cassin  
Nellis W. Clark  
James K. Daly  
Frank Franken  
Leslie Harlow  
Vincent P. Hays  
John V. Kirch  
William B. Linster  
John E. McCormick  
Joseph J. McNichols  
Clarence J. Ross  
Adam G. Safranski  
Theodore W. Schlegel  
Anthony Stekowitz  
Srool B. Warsawsky  
Vincent Wiltgod  
William Zeitz

## DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS

### *Colonel*

Henry A. Allen  
Distinguished Service Medal  
Croix de Guerre

### *First Sergeants*

Simon deLagneau Hay  
The Military Medal  
Wm. Michael Ward  
The Military Medal



## GENERAL PERSHING HONORS THE ENGINEERS

The officer being decorated is Captain William Ward. At his left is Lieutenant Simon D. Hay.

*Sergeants*

Hugo C. Adelhelm  
Distinguished Service Cross

Leonard B. Clark

Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star

## CITATION FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

*Sergeant*

Hugo C. Adelhelm, Company C

In action near Consenvoye, on October 8, 1918, Sergeant Adelhelm, while a member of a working party, engaged in building a bridge across the Meuse River, with another soldier volunteered to cross the river in order to handle guy-ropes. There were two enemy machine gun nests on the opposite bank, within a hundred yards of the bridge site, and Sergeant Adelhelm's gas mask was rendered useless in crossing the river, but he remained for over two hours under a bombardment of gas and high explosive shells and machine gun fire, until the work was finished.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS WHO WERE CITED FOR BRAVERY  
BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

Others received citation only from General Bell.

*Colonel*

† Henry A. Allen

*First Lieutenant*

Thomas I. Raynor

*First Class Sergeants*

† Hugo Adelhelm

William O. Babcock

† James O. Boulton

\* William Burdof

Leland M. Elmes

Henry D. Lindblad

John W. Minton

Fred A. Pement

† Hugo C. Peters

† Porter Rudolph

† George Troy

Herman O. Winnegge

*Sergeants*

† Henry A. Bathert

Alfred F. Burt

† B. Leonard Clark

James R. Currie

† James E. Dempsey

† Oscar E. Estram

† Frank I. Hart

† Patrick W. Hughes

John B. Marquis

† Guy F. Moyer

Albert P. Smart

Luther W. Wolf

*Corporals*

Joseph Badtke

Phillip Chamison

† William H. Davis

† James Fouhrmeyer

George L. Fuchs

George J. Grummell

Albert Haeger

Anthony G. Lobecki

Roy McCann

Wallace H. McCormack

Earl McKinnon

Henry Mallinson

Arthur Moffitt

† John A. Moline

Rudolph W. Peterson

\* John W. Rhody



CHAPLAIN OLIN M. CAWARD



108TH ENGINEERS REGIMENTAL STAFF

Left to right: Captain Walter Farwell, Captain Clyde L. Thompson, Captain William M. Ward, Major Carl A. Heinze, Major Cornelius A. Leenbeer, Colonel Henry A. Allen, Major Dwight D. Gullfoil, Captain Julian C. Campbell, Captain Leon S. Winslow, Captain Joseph W. Sanborn, Captain Ora G. Baxter.

† Martin Schiber  
 Edmund J. Shay  
 William W. Stevens  
 Robert B. Stewart  
 Alfred G. Tuttle  
 James Wilkerson  
 Gustave H. Willhard  
 Verner L. Williams

*Wagoner*

\* Roy E. Babcock

*Privates, First Class*

Charles W. Belsky  
 William J. Briden  
 \* Frank E. Dunlap  
 Arthur J. Deum  
 Arthur A. Dinstel  
 Thomas Hueston  
 Axel E. Johnson  
 Emil R. Johnson  
 Edwin J. Larsch  
 William Madsen  
 John Mastalski  
 Raymond Olsen  
 Arthur E. Overacker  
 Wladyslaw Prybylowicz  
 Witold Rachas  
 John Romasco  
 Eugene R. Roth  
 William S. Sundberg

*Privates*

Ernest Allen  
 † Roy E. Armstrong  
 Frank E. Bass  
 John B. Beck

George Blaney  
 Gust Bogois  
 Frank Boommsels  
 Dennis Burke  
 † Emmett J. Casey  
 George J. Castanis  
 John J. Collins  
 Benjamin E. Crissinger  
 M. E. J. Crok  
 † Ruggles H. Dunlap  
 Edward W. Eggert  
 William E. Graf  
 George Hansen  
 † Vincent P. Hayes  
 Willie Hines  
 Ira Horton  
 Joseph W. Jeffers  
 George W. Jones  
 Edward J. Kelly  
 John J. Klein  
 Leo Krause  
 † Kasper Kress  
 † Herman M. Krouth  
 John H. Laird  
 John A. Larson  
 Oscar E. Olson  
 William Porter  
 Frederick Raso  
 Cleve O. Sherod  
 Leonard Simmons  
 † Charles Smedley  
 Anthony Steckowitz  
 † Fred C. Therion  
 Harold D. Walsh  
 Andrew W. Wisti  
 Frank G. Wozniak  
 Stanley Zelazek

ROSTER OF OFFICERS AT TIME OF MUSTER-OUT

*Colonel*

Henry A. Allen

*Majors*

Dwight D. Guilfoil  
 Carl A. Heinze  
 Cornelius A. Leenheer, M. C.

*Captains*

Ora G. Baxter  
 William M. Bready  
 Julian C. Campbell  
 Walter Farwell  
 Charles S. Greusel  
 Lorne J. Hughes  
 Harry A. Roe  
 Joseph W. Sanborn  
 John N. Schufreider  
 Edgar L. Tenney  
 Clyde L. Thompson

William S. Tillett  
 William M. Ward  
 Leon S. Winslow

*First Lieutenants*

Ben K. Babbitt  
 Ralph H. Baughman  
 Bruce Brownlea  
 Robert F. Doepel  
 Russell Furness Fields  
 William A. Fox  
 Simon deLagneau Hay  
 Norman L. Huffaker  
 Arey D. Locke  
 Ralph T. McGrath  
 Fred W. Neubert  
 William M. Parkhurst  
 Robert P. Richards  
 Magnus R. Thompson  
 Oscar W. Urbom



## SOME CAPTAINS OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS

Top row: Ora G. Baxter, William M. Bready, Julian C. Campbell, Milton P. Duplessis.  
Second row: Walter Farwell, Charles S. Greusel, Lorne J. Hughes, William A. Peterson.  
Third row: Harry A. Roe, Joseph W. Sanborn, John N. Schufreider, Edgar L. Tenney.  
Bottom row: Clyde L. Thompson, William S. Tillett, William M. Ward, Leon S. Winslow.



**SOME FIRST LIEUTENANTS OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS**

Top row: Ben K. Babbitt, Bruce Brownlea, Phillip E. Cole, Robert F. Doepel.  
 Second row: Lewis E. Eastwood, William A. Fox, Simon D. Hay, Norman L. Huffaker.  
 Third row: Arey D. Locke, Ralph T. McGrath, Fred W. Neubert, William M. Parkhurst.  
 Bottom row: Magnus R. Thompson, Oscar W. Urbom, Lloyd W. Warfel, Fred Zollweger.



## SOME SECOND LIEUTENANTS OF THE 108TH ENGINEERS

Top row: William H. Dean (captain), Ruggles H. Dunlap, Albert R. Gish, Oscar Johnson.

Second row: Walter Kishbaugh, Henry D. Lindblad, Edward S. McCreary.

Third row: James A. Martin, Jr., Ralph M. Moon, John B. Morgan, Bert S. Mowers (1st lieutenant).

Bottom row: William M. Nesler, Leroy F. Paul, Homer V. Scott, Ingolf J. Wilson (1st lieutenant).



Lloyd W. Warfel  
Ingolf J. Wilson  
Fred Zollweger

*Second Lieutenants*

George W. Bergquist  
George E. Caswell  
Corydon Roudley Cook  
Ruggles H. Dunlap  
Arthur J. Gallagher  
Albert R. Gish  
Jack Earl Huff  
Oscar Johnson

Nelson D. Lambert  
Henry D. Linblad  
Edward S. McCreary  
James A. Martin, Jr.  
John Birchman Morgan  
Ingolf J. Nilson  
Leroy Frank Paul  
Alfred Henry Schweiger  
A. L. Smith  
Homer Verlin Scott

*Chaplain*

Capt. Olin M. Caward

ROSTER OF OFFICERS TRANSFERRED FROM UNIT

\* Resigned at Camp Logan, Houston, Texas.

*Lieutenant Colonels*

Gordon Strong (commanded as Colonel,  
124th Field Artillery, 33rd Division)  
James Lindsay-Oliver (assigned to 130th  
Infantry, 33rd Division)  
Wallace H. Whigam (assigned to Army  
Schools)

*Majors*

Frederick W. Darlington  
Wallace M. Decker  
Orie T. Dunlap  
Harmon L. Laughlin  
\* Richard J. McDonnell  
Arthur A. Reimer  
Jay A. Rossiter  
Charles Roth  
\* Perry W. Swern

*Captains*

George H. Bragdon  
\* Franklin H. Cobb  
Clinton S. Darling  
William H. Dean  
Mark M. Duffy  
Milton P. Duplessis  
Harry F. Hamlin  
Ralph C. Harris  
John M. Heath  
Harry L. Hudson  
Ernest V. Lippe  
John J. O'Connor  
William A. Peterson  
\* Curtis C. Saner  
Albert H. Sheffield

*First Lieutenants*

Chester L. Brundage  
Percy B. Castle  
Phillip E. Cole  
Lewis E. Eastwood  
Leo. R. Gurley  
Hubert H. Harz  
Verne Hays  
Fred J. Hoefer  
John H. Jacobsen  
Clyde E. Jones, Jr.  
Matthew W. Kearney  
Richard B. Moran  
Bert S. Mowers  
William M. Nesler  
William G. O'Neil  
Thomas J. Raynor  
Frank R. Stauffer  
Fred H. Steele  
Robert V. Stureman  
Thomas R. Wiwi  
Walter H. Wood

*Second Lieutenants*

John H. Chase  
Timothy J. Fitzgerald  
Albert G. Ford  
Walter Kishbaugh  
Norman A. Meyer  
Ralph M. Moon  
Joseph S. Moriarity  
Earl V. Nelson  
Hans G. Peterson  
John Tabershofer  
Charles A. Waterhouse



A CAMOUFLAGED ROAD NEAR FORGES

## The 122nd Machine Gun Battalion

MAJOR MARIANO B. SOUTHWICK, EDITOR



**T**HE 122nd Machine Gun Battalion came into being on October 11, 1917, when the Illinois National Guard, then in training at Camp Logan, was transformed into the Thirty-third Division of the United States Army.

Companies E, K and I of the old Fifth Illinois Infantry and the machine gun company of the Seventh Illinois were assigned at first to the battalion. Subsequently a War Department order reduced the size of divisional machine gun battalions, and Company I and the machine gunners of the old Seventh were transferred, leaving only Companies E and K.

Although the men had been trained as infantrymen, they soon became machine gun experts. The drill at Camp Logan was thorough, and the men were willing and eager to learn. After a winter of intense training they were ready for active service.

Because of the great demand for machine gunners in France the battalion was one of the first units to leave Texas when the division began entraining for the Atlantic coast. It left Camp Logan on May 1, reached Camp Upton, N. Y., five days later, and on the 10th sailed from Hoboken on the United States ship *Lenape*.

Two weeks later, after an uneventful voyage, the gunners landed at Brest and were immediately sent to Pontanezen barracks, near the port, to await orders. These came on May 28, sending the battalion to the British front,



IN THE HARBOR OF BREST

near Bouillancourt. The start was made immediately. Arrived at the British front, the men lost no time in getting to work.

Rations and equipment were furnished by the British, and the battalion was subject to the orders of British officers while receiving intensive training from veterans skilled in all the tricks

of trench fighting. The training was directed by Major E. C. MacArthur and four machine gun sergeants, all of whom had seen long service on the British front. These men gave the battalion invaluable instruction during the ten days of the stay at Bouillancourt.

From Bouillancourt the battalion went to Rieux and then to Molliens-au-Bois, where it remained, training constantly under British veterans, until the first chance at actual service came on June 18. The British had asked the division for permission to use some of its machine gun units in strengthening the Amiens sector of the Somme front, where a German thrust was expected because of the success of the enemy's Somme drive in March.

To protect the sector the British wanted the Illinois gunners to occupy "alert" positions in the support line. The request was granted, and on June 18 the 122nd Battalion, accompanied by the machine gun companies of the 131st and 132nd Infantry Regiments, was sent forward to occupy positions



GERMAN PRISONERS WORKING IN BREST

extending from Blangy-Tronville to Franvillers. Battalion headquarters were established on the Amiens road, between Amiens and Querrieu.

The battalion was thus the first combat unit of the Thirty-third Division to get into the line. Several companies of the 108th Engineers had been sent forward the day before, but no combat troops had been on the front.

For four weeks the "alert" positions were held by the Illinoisians. The gunners were under enemy shell fire all the time, losing one man killed and two wounded, but the experience was of inestimable value. It taught the men many lessons which were to serve them well in later battles.

The 123rd Machine Gun Battalion relieved the 122nd and the companies attached on July 16. The 122nd was sent to the Long training area, near Abbéville, for target practice preparatory to battle service. By making a forced march the battalion covered the distance in two days. It immediately began devoting itself to target drill on the excellent Pont Remy range, which had been placed at the disposal of American troops by the British.

By this time Major Mariano B. Southwick was in command of the battalion. He had succeeded Major David R. Swaim on July 4, when the latter was promoted to a lieutenant colonelcy and transferred. Major Southwick was to remain at the head of the 122nd during all its war service and until February 1, 1919.

The coöperation of the British in the Long area was all that could have been desired. Full use of the range for three weeks was given the battalion, and General H. S. Williams, commanding the British forces in the sector, assigned for assistance his entire training cadre, including gunners, physical instructors, bombers, riflemen and others, all of whom had seen four years of the war.

Until August 7 this training continued. Then the battalion was ordered back to Molliens-au-Bois with the machine gun companies of the 131st and 132nd Regiments, which were still attached. Both of these companies were returned to their regiments, and sent into action before Albert, but the 122nd was less fortunate. It remained in Molliens Wood until August 24, when the entire division was ordered to the American sector.

The battalion was stationed at Guerpont, near Bar-le-Duc, for a time,



MAJOR MARIANO B. SOUTHWICK  
Commander of the 122nd Machine Gun  
Battalion during active operations.



WHY IT WAS CALLED DEAD MAN'S HILL

diately because the camp had come under enemy balloon observation. They found rest finally in the Camp de Placy, which served as the battalion's station for ten days.

At the end of that period, on the night of September 16, the march to the front was made. Enemy planes bombed the column as it moved into dug-outs on a hill northwest of Verdun, but there were no casualties, and morning found the battalion entrenched on the most famous battlefield of the war.

On September 19 came the order to move to Dead Man's Hill, another position in the Verdun sector, where an attack was to be launched against the German positions in Forges Wood by units of the Thirty-third Division.

The enemy's position was a strong one. It lay just beyond Forges Creek, which ran from Avocourt Woods, past Dead Man's Hill, to the Meuse. To the west of the German trenches was a line of ridges, extending in a general northerly direction from Sivry-la-Perche to Montfaucon, through the Bois de Malancourt. The valley of Forges Creek was about one kilometer in width, and more or less of an obstacle in itself. The enemy's trenches beyond were in good condition, protected with double and triple systems of wire. Roughly speaking, they were in three lines, first the

but on September 5 was sent to Verdun. The long trip, which had to be made at night and without lights, was the first real test of the battalion's newly acquired motor transport. It was made on time, despite difficulties.

Tired as the men were when they reached their new billets in the Bois de St. Pierre, they had to turn out imme-



ARMOR PLATE DEFENSE IN THE HAGEN STELLUNG

*Hagen Stellung*, next the *Völker Stellung*, and then the *Kriemhilde Stellung*.

Against these defenses the Americans launched a vicious attack on September 26. The 122nd Machine Gun Battalion formed part of the attacking echelon, both companies contributing to the barrage which was laid across the valley as the infantry advanced. All emplacements in the old line were abandoned, the gunners taking up new positions in and about shell craters nearer the enemy. This move served not only to increase the efficiency of the barrage but also to deceive the Germans, who kept dropping shells on the abandoned emplacements, which the French had used for years.

Because the fire could be directed across the valley, well above the heads of the infantrymen at the foot of the slope, the barrage was unusually effective. The infantry was well covered, and reports subsequently obtained from



THE FIRST PRISONERS TAKEN BY THE THIRTY-THIRD IN THE ARGONNE

German prisoners showed that the retreat of enemy units was cut off by the barrage.

Two guns from the battalion were disposed on the extreme right flank to support a raid made by the Seventeenth French Division in conjunction with the American attack. In the quarry on the east bank of the Meuse, which had been one of this detachment's targets, the French found the bodies of twenty-five Germans. Sergeant John C. Miller, who directed the fire of the two guns, was later congratulated by General Pershing and commissioned a second lieutenant.

After the objectives had been reached, the battalion directed intermittent fire against the enemy to prevent counterattacks and to hamper the erection of new defenses. German movements on September 28 at a crossroads between Brabant and Bois de Brabant were stopped by harassing fire, and one



THE ROAD BUILDERS AT FORGES

of the enemy's 3-inch guns at Brabant was silenced by two of the battalion's machine guns.

One hundred and fifty men of the battalion worked for five days with the 108th Engineers, building a road through the newly won area to Forges. Meanwhile two anti-aircraft

trucks, with gun crews, were dispatched to Hill 281, where the Sixty-fifth Infantry Brigade had been suffering from airplane attacks. The gunners were heavily gassed, but succeeded in bringing down three German planes.

The men remaining at the battalion's position laid down a barrage for the Sixty-sixth French Infantry on September 30, but the French changed their plans and did not deliver the expected attack.

In compliance with orders from division headquarters, Company B, commanded by Captain J. St. C. Daly, was sent to the trenches south of Consenvoye on October 9 to serve with the Sixty-sixth Infantry Brigade. Later in the same day Major Southwick went to Consenvoye with Company A and reported to the commanding officer of the 129th Infantry, who ordered Captain Herbert E. Algeo to take the company forward with the first battalion of the 129th.

Both companies advanced with the infantry when the enemy was attacked the next day. Company B was with the attacking wave of the 131st Infantry, going forward at 6:05 a. m. in the face of terrific fire from the Germans. Com-



THIS WAS FORGES

pany A went forward at 11:30 a. m. with the first battalion of the 129th Infantry, advancing to a position three kilometers from the starting point.

The advance was made through heavy shell and machine gun fire, which increased in intensity as the Bois de Chaume and the Bois du Plat Chêne were entered. The Germans were strongly established in both woods. Machine gun nests were unusually numerous and were placed strategically, so that a withering fire was poured into the American lines from the front and both flanks.

The two machine gun companies assisted materially in breaking down the German's strong resistance. They helped demolish machine gun nests, routed snipers and protected the advancing infantrymen with heavy fire. Eventually



A VALLEY IN THE BOIS DU PLAT CHENE

Company A advanced through this wood in the attack of October 10.

both forests were cleared, and the gunners went into the outpost line, where they hung on despite heavy gas attacks and constant shelling and machine gun fire.

The machine gun companies were relieved, with the infantry brigade, on the night of October 13-14, and were sent back across the captured ground to Consenvoye. After a day in that shattered town, they were removed to Forges Wood to act as a divisional reserve.

The Forges Wood was within range of the Germans' guns, and was subjected to constant fire. Gas shells mingled with the high explosives, but the men had by this time become so expert in gas discipline that the battalion suffered no casualties.

On the night of October 19 the Fifteenth French Colonial Infantry Division relieved the Thirty-third Division, and the 122nd Battalion moved to Moulin Brulé. After a day of rest there it moved again, this time going to





THE SMITHY IN THE CHURCH AT CONSENSVOYE

Rattentout, where the men rested until the night of October 24-25.

That night the battalion was ordered forward once more, relieving the 310th Machine Gun Battalion at Woimbey. It had hardly established itself there when fresh orders sent it to Chaillon, where it relieved elements of the Thirty-ninth French Division on the night of October 25-26.

Chaillon proved to be a quiet sector. The Germans were not active, contenting themselves with casual shelling of the American positions. Ten gas casualties were suffered, but otherwise no damage was done. Neither side made an offensive move.

Relieved on October 31 by Company D of the 124th Machine Gun Battalion, the 122nd proceeded to a camp south of Thillombois. There it made ready for what was expected to be the supreme effort of the war—the great drive toward Metz. The Thirty-third Division was to have a part in the projected offensive, and the 122nd Battalion was prepared for hard fighting when news came that the armistice had been signed.

Instead of being a hostile move, therefore, the advance, when it was made, was peaceful. On November 24 the battalion marched to Chaillon, and on December 8 it joined the division in the advance toward the Rhine.

Neiderfeulen, Luxemburg, was announced as the destination of the 122nd. The advance was made in easy stages by way of Doncourt-les-Conflans, Briey, Andernay, Wollmeringen, Altweis and Kanach. Everywhere the battalion was met by staring multitudes, some happy, some disconsolate, some unex-



A CONCRETE PILL BOX AT CONSENSVOYE

cited over the sudden progress of the Allies. The country through which the Americans passed contrasted strangely with that they had left. It was peaceful, clean, untouched by war.

The marching columns reached Neiderfeulen on December 22, and spent Christmas Day in a new and strange land. The people of Luxemburg, however, welcomed the "invaders," and the holidays were passed pleasantly. So, for that matter, were all the winter months. Amateur theatricals, athletics and military contests of all sorts kept the spirits of the men up, and constant drill maintained the battalion's efficiency.

On February 1, 1919, Major Southwick was attached to division headquarters as assistant chief of staff, and command of the battalion passed to



THE MAIN ROAD THROUGH CHAILLON

Chaillon was taken by the Twenty-sixth Division in the Saint Mihiel offensive. Here the 122nd stopped for a fortnight on the advance into Germany.

Captain Daly, who remained in charge until the battalion was mustered out of service.

On March 1 the battalion was transferred from Neiderfeulen to Wiltz, Luxemburg, because better quarters were available in the latter town. The unit remained there until May 4, when the division began entraining for Brest. The 122nd Battalion reached the French port on May 8, and sailed five days later on the transport Mount Vernon. The crossing was made quickly, and on the morning of May 19 the Statue of Liberty was sighted.

From New York the battalion was sent to Camp Mills to await the arrival of other Thirty-third Division units. It remained there for five days and then entrained for Chicago, where a tremendous ovation was given the gunners. The battalion proceeded to Camp Grant, and was mustered out of the federal service on May 29.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND MACHINE GUN BATTALION WHO WERE KILLED  
IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*First Lieutenant*

Walter M. Stillman

Wilson Cole

John Milowski

*Privates*

Edward P. Bealin

Emory J. Whisler

DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND MACHINE GUN  
BATTALION

*First Lieutenant*

James F. King

Distinguished Service Cross

*Privates*

Harry G. Holland

Distinguished Service Cross

Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf

*Second Lieutenant*

Harry B. Liggett

Distinguished Service Cross

Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf

Ernest Meador

Distinguished Service Cross

Croix de Guerre with Gold Star



WINNERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Left to right: Lieutenant James F. King, Privates Ernest Meador and Harry G. Holland.

CITATIONS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

*First Lieutenant James F. King, Company A:*

On October 10, 1918, while in command of a machine gun platoon attached to the 131st Infantry, Lieutenant King, by personal reconnaissance, established machine gun and automatic rifle outposts. During a threatened counterattack, he exposed himself to point-blank fire and walked from outpost to outpost reassuring his men.

*Second Lieutenant Harry B. Liggett, Company A:*

Near Bois de Chaume, October 10, 1918, Lieutenant Liggett, leading his platoon under heavy shell and machine gun fire, launched an attack on two machine gun nests. Accompanied by one soldier, he silenced the fire from one nest with rifle fire and directed the fire from his platoon so that the other nest was destroyed. He was severely wounded.

*Private Harry G. Holland, Company B:*

Near Bois de Chaume, October 10, 1918, advancing alone against twenty of the enemy whom he saw bringing machine guns into position to enfilade his position, Private Holland killed ten and routed the rest, his entire exploit being under heavy shell and machine gun fire.

*Private Ernest Meador, Company B:*

Near Bois de Chaume, October 10, 1918, Private Meador, having induced a stretcher-bearer to accompany him, made his way through heavy shell and machine gun fire to the front of the line to aid a wounded comrade. His stretcher-bearer was killed, but he placed the wounded man on the stretcher and dragged him back to safety.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 122ND MACHINE GUN BATTALION WHO WERE CITED  
FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

† Received citation also from General Pershing.

*Captain*

Charles F. Hoover

Desmond Weindorf

Harry Williams

*First Lieutenant*

† James F. King

*Privates*

Wyman Auvinen

Fred M. Brodfuehrer

John W. Butters

Walter L. Deppmeier

Harold Fasick

Earl Felkel

Wm. Gerner, Jr.

Mark A. Goetzman

Ignatz Gradecki

Vern R. Halley

Lynn Holmes

Irvin J. Horn

Frank J. Huelsman

Albert Johnson

Walter Knoy

Homer A. McHugh

Max G. Milanovich

Ray L. Munton

Harry V. Pulliam

James E. Rebstock

George M. Schmugge

Edward C. Sparling

Harvey Stokes

Lloyd L. Stout

Bliss Troutman

Elmer Young

Wm. L. Werle

*Second Lieutenant*

John C. Miller

*First Sergeant*

Clarence Fickel

*Sergeants*

Charles G. Armstrong

John Dagon

Charles L. Hopkins

Keith W. Murphy

William Payne

Homer H. Robertson

Jesse E. Taulbee

*Corporals*

Chris J. Armstrong

Joe R. Garder

Walter E. Hutton

John W. King

Clarence Lipe

Baxter Mansfield

Lester B. Stout

John Wagner

Charles A. White

*Wagoners*

Stephen W. Briggs

Louis D. Potter

*Bugler*

Allen C. Whitworth

*Privates, First Class*

Arthur W. Andre

David J. Bell

Robert Fletcher

Arnold W. George

Arthur J. Gulde

Alfred Hart

Milton D. Israel

Arthur F. Kamp

Lawrence Lindberg

Leroy S. Morse

Wm. C. Sandage

Lester Smith

Bliss E. Sturgeon

Walter S. Sybert

Jay Voyles

Nicholas Vukelich

Robert E. Weiler



LIEUTENANT J. C. MILLER

## OFFICERS OF THE 122ND MACHINE GUN BATTALION

*Majors*

David R. Swaim (later  
lieutenant colonel, 33rd  
Division Staff)  
Mariano B. Southwick

*Captains*

Herbert E. Algeo  
Jeremiah St. Clair Daly  
Charles F. Hoover  
Patrick F. O'Farrell, M. C.  
Julius Seidel, D. C.  
Larkin A. Tuggle

*First Lieutenants*

Peter Edson  
Thomas J. Kennedy  
James F. King  
Lester L. Miller  
Francis O. Rice  
Walter M. Stillman (de-  
ceased)  
Raymond F. Swain

*Second Lieutenants*

Oswald F. Becker  
Harry L. Burch

Richard S. Carr  
Robert W. Ingram  
Horace E. Johnson  
Harry B. Liggett  
Loy N. McIntosh (later  
first lieutenant)  
John C. Miller  
Leslie A. Rossiter  
William C. Timm



## OFFICERS OF THE 122ND MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Top row: Captains H. E. Algeo, C. F. Hoover, P. F. O'Farrell, Julius Seidel.

Second row: Captain L. A. Tuggle, Lieutenants L. L. Miller, W. M. Stillman, R. S. Carr.

Third row: Lieutenants R. W. Ingram, H. E. Johnson, Loy McIntosh, L. A. Rossiter.



WHERE THE SIGNAL BATTALION LIVED AT CAMP LOGAN

## The 108th Field Signal Battalion

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES R. FORBES, EDITOR

BY LIEUTENANT WALTER B. GREENWOOD



**A** STORY of daring and invention, of courage and of making the most of a little; of "carrying on" in the face of difficulties which at times seemed almost insurmountable—such is the story of the service of the 108th Field Signal Battalion in the World War.

The men who made up the three companies of the battalion saw service in some of the hardest-won territory of the war. Their work, while inconspicuous, as compared with that of the fighting men, was of a hazardous nature and of vast importance to the success of the division of which they were a part. It was the duty of the signal battalion to maintain the division's communications, to keep the advancing troops in touch with the rear, and much of this work necessarily was done under fire. The men of the signal battalion performed these hazard-

ous duties fearlessly and efficiently.

The 108th Field Signal Battalion had its inception in the old Second Illinois Infantry in 1891. About the middle of April of that year First Lieutenant George M. Meehan of Company B, Second Illinois Infantry (the 132nd Infantry in the World War), enlisted several telegraph operators in the organization and conceived the idea of forming a signal detachment to operate within the company. This group, small at first, grew in size and efficiency until it became a regimental signal platoon. It then was provided from regimental funds with field glasses, flags, telegraph instruments and other equipment.

Opportunity to see active service came soon. In 1892, on strike duty at Lemont, Illinois, and again in Chicago, in the railroad strikes of 1893, the signal platoon maintained uninterrupted communications for the troops assigned to strike duty. First Lieutenant William J. Lloyd, district superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was in command at that time.

Four years later the unit made its next step forward. The military code of Illinois was changed to provide for a signal company, and the signal platoon of the Second Infantry was mustered in as signal corps troops, instead of infantry. Its new designation was Company A, Signal Corps, Illinois National Guard. William J. Lloyd, then captain, was placed in command and First Lieutenant John W. McConnell was transferred to the corps from the Second Infantry as drill instructor.



MAJOR ALVIN H. McNEAL

At the beginning of the Spanish-American War the signal unit was mustered into the federal service as the Seventh Company, Signal Corps, United States Volunteers, with McConnell, promoted to a captaincy, in command. The company served in Porto Rico during the war and was mustered out December 4, 1898. With the reorganization of the Illinois National Guard the following year the signal unit was formed into a company of three detachments. Instead of the entire company being stationed in Chicago, as formerly, one detachment, under command of First Lieutenant David N. Williams, was in Chicago; a second, under First Lieutenant Percy McGrew, had headquarters at Springfield, and the third was at Yorkville, commanded by First Lieutenant B. F. Harrington. Captain John B. Inmann, stationed at Springfield, commanded the company.

In 1901, to permit closer organization, the second and third detachments were mustered out, and the Chicago detachment was expanded into a company, with Captain McConnell in command, assisted by First Lieutenant Williams and First Lieutenant Alvin H. McNeal. This organization was maintained until nine years later, when Captain McConnell resigned and Lieutenant Williams was promoted to fill the vacancy. A year later the latter resigned and the command was taken by McNeal.

Not until June 19, 1916, was the company again called into active service.

Ordered to the Mexican border, it was mustered into federal service at Springfield with Captain McNeal in command. Other officers of the company at this time were First Lieutenants George E. Macauley, Fred A. McAdams and Harold M. Sandford, with Captain George W. Funck as medical officer.



EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY AT CAMP LOGAN

After six months on the border, during which time it was changed into a radio unit, the company again was mustered out of federal service at Fort Sheridan, January 3, 1917. The unit remained intact as a radio company of the Signal Corps, Illinois National Guard. Consequently it was ready when, a few months later, it received the real call—the call to the great war.

The company was again mustered into the federal service on August 5, with Captain McNeal in command. Soon after it arrived at Camp Logan, on September 16, as part of the Thirty-third Division, the company was expanded into a field signal battalion, consisting of three companies, headquarters and supply section, and medical detachment. As thus organized, Company A, with three officers and seventy-five men, remained a radio company; Company B, with three officers and seventy-five men, was a wire company; and Company C, with five officers and 280 men, divided into four platoons, was the outpost company.

On November 10 the battalion had a commissioned strength of thirteen, including Major Alvin H. McNeal, commanding. The other officers were:

First Lieutenant H. B. Hovde, adjutant and supply officer.

#### *Company A*

Captain R. J. Foster, commanding.

First Lieutenant L. G. Swanson.

First Lieutenant L. J. Healy.

#### *Company B*

Captain Luther N. Hull, commanding.



STARTING THE BATTALION'S TRENCHES



First Lieutenant John S. McBride.

First Lieutenant Edward Tedeski, Jr.

*Company C*

Captain Fred A. McAdams, commanding.

First Lieutenant Oscar W. Strahan.

First Lieutenant Fred A. Waterous.

First Lieutenant Walter B. Greenwood.

First Lieutenant Philip W. Reed.

The battalion at once entered upon a course of training designed to fit it for the tasks that were waiting "over there." In these training camp days many men were transferred to the battalion from other units and others came from draft contingents. Many of them were unacquainted with telegraphy or telephony. Even at the time the battalion entrained for France it was short its quota, and at Camp Merritt more than 100 men from Fort Leavenworth were assigned to it.

It was in the days of training that the inventive spirit of the battalion began to manifest itself. Captain Hull led off by turning forage wagons into "wire" wagons by the addition of wooden wire spools. Then, with the establishment of a laboratory under the direction of Lieutenant Greenwood, invention began in earnest. Working with the scant supply of tools at hand, the company improvised equipment for training purposes, and soon the recruits



STRINGING THE WIRES AT CAMP LOGAN

were being instructed in radio, telephony, telegraphy, French, mathematics and other subjects. An unused mess shack was taken over and converted into laboratory and class rooms.

During these days, too, Lieutenants Greenwood and Healy worked out a practical ground telegraph set which later proved to be identical with the sets used by the French and the British. A field was designed and equipped for the training of aviators in artillery-shot reporting; planes were equipped with radio sets; and an electrical range-reporting apparatus for airplanes, which was used later in modified form in Europe, was worked out at the laboratory.

The training was carried on, more or less smoothly, until May 12, 1918, when the battalion started for Camp Merritt, en route to France. Aboard the Royal Mail steamer Melita, in convoy with twelve other vessels, a United States battleship and numerous submarine chasers, the men of the battalion steamed out of New York harbor for France and adventure.

The Melita arrived at Liverpool on June 8. The battalion debarked the following morning and entrained for Dover. After a night at Victoria Flats it crossed the channel, landing at Calais on June 10.

Just as, in the old training camp days, the men had longed for the beds at home, so now, when they were assigned to their sleeping quarters in a British "rest" camp, they longed for a return to those training camp cots. Fourteen men to each tent was the allotment, the tent being a small, conical affair under which the men could find shelter only by lying with their heads at the outer edge and their feet overlapping at the center pole.

It was at this camp that the battalion first established a reputation among its British allies, if not for courage at least for indifference to danger. One day the warning signal for an air raid was given. The British, fearing that the Americans, unaccustomed to such a visit, might stampede, to their own as well as the "Tommies'" danger, stationed pickets at the mouths of the dugouts to control the panic-



MAJOR JOHN P. LUCAS



A TRAINING TRENCH



COMPANY A LEAVING CHICAGO ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1917

stricken men who might seek to enter. To the amazement of these sentries, they found themselves without jobs. The men of the battalion, instead of fleeing to cover, were seeking out the most open spots in order to get a better view of the raid.

The battalion soon moved to the village of Eu, a short distance west of Abbeville, where it went into barracks in a Belgian artillery camp. Yankee commercial instinct cropped out here, the men in the battalion acquiring a goodly array of Belgian soldier headgear in exchange for cigarettes before complaint was made by the Belgian commanders, the bartering stopped, and the caps returned.

At Eu the battalion was split. Ten men from Company A, with one officer, Second Lieutenant H. F. Doyle, were sent to join the Fifty-eighth Field Artillery Brigade near Besançon, and Company C was divided, the four platoons being sent to join as many infantry regiments near Amiens. A small detail was left to operate the area switchboard which was placed in the stable of the Duke of Orleans.

The remainder of the battalion was transported by British lorries to Molliens-au-Bois, a few miles behind the lines at Albert. Here, because of nightly air raids, the men lived in holes in the ground, with pup-tents overhead.

It was while they were in this section of the battle front that the men saw their first real service. They were with the 131st and 132nd Regiments when parts of those units went into action at Hamel on July 4.

While in training under the Royal Engineers, in the reserve trenches before Albert, the battalion suffered its first casualty in the person of Major John P. Lucas, who had succeeded Major McNeal in command of the unit. Major Lucas was struck by a fragment of a German high explosive shell and was so seriously wounded that it was necessary to send him to a hos-



BRITISH CABLE WAGON IN USE BY COMPANY B

pital in England. As Major Lucas had been acting division signal officer, as well as battalion commander, both posts were left vacant.

A few days later Major Charles R. Forbes was made division signal officer. He acted also as commander of the signal battalion until late in July when Major James J. Kelly was transferred from the Seventy-eighth Division and placed in command.

At Molliens the battalion maintained and operated the British telegraph and telephone station and built numerous field lines. This work was done at the request of British officers, who complimented the men highly on their expedition and efficiency.

While the battalion was on the British front Private Charles Bonner of Company C was killed, and several men of that company, including Sergeant Peter J. Kaepplinger and Privates Harold Bossman and John Bordas were wounded.

Its period of training with the British ended, the battalion was ordered to Vignacourt, where it entrained, and rode through Paris, Chateau-Thierry, Chalons and Bar-le-Duc to Ligny-en-Barrois. Thence the men proceeded by march to Tronville-en-Barrois, where for the first time they occupied billets.

The next move was to Blercourt-en-Argonne, a dirty, wet village, which the men were glad to leave when they were ordered to move up into the line, relieving the signal troops of the 120th French Division, with their post of command at Fromeréville.

Arriving at Fromeréville, the battallion took over the French exchanges. It would have been necessary to lay many miles of new wires in this area, as the existing lines were in bad shape as a result of four years of exposure to the weather and shell fire, but, as the Thirty-third Division moved forward within a short time, the vast network of communication wires was left behind. The battalion moved to Longbut farm, a short distance east of Fromeréville,



LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES R. FORBES



BOMBPROOF DUGOUT AT MOLLIENS

Eu, except for a few weeks while the unit was in training at Molliens-au-Bois.

Then, as preparations were made for the opening of the great Meuse-Argonne drive, the men began to see real service. On September 24 the division signal office was moved to the north end of the Bois Bourrus with division headquarters, occupying a network of French-constructed dugouts called La Hutte. There the battalion operated the French switchboard with lines to Fromeréville, Longbut, Verdun and Bethelainville, and to the Sixty-sixth Brigade headquarters at Hill 275. A line was laid on the ground over Dead Man's Hill to one of the forward units, and after the advance of September 26 this was extended to a point north of Bethincourt, where the Sixty-fifth Brigade was stationed in captured German dugouts.

This line was continually being shattered by gun-fire and demanded constant attention. Private William G. Urban, of Chicago, was killed when working on this line at Hill 281. The lines from the Sixty-fifth Brigade switchboard were constantly severed by shell fire, and the men of the battalion worked night and day, under fire, to maintain communications.

Crossing the Meuse

and Company A went forward to operate the radio stations throughout the division area.

Company B was divided into two platoons. One of these, under Lieutenant R. A. Schmidt, was stationed at La Claire and the other, led by Second Lieutenant E. E. Hobday, at Chattancourt. The four platoons of Company C had not been with the battalion since its departure from



GENERAL BELL INSPECTING LIAISON DETACHMENT  
At Tronville, Meuse, September 2, 1918.

River and Canal was the next big undertaking put up to the battalion. It was decided to extend a line across the river and canal ahead of the infantry advance, near Brabant, and Lieutenant Schmidt was put in charge of the work. It was necessary to lay the line at night and, in the darkness, Lieutenant Schmidt lost his bearings, stringing the line across the river at Consenvoye, almost three kilometers north of Brabant. Consenvoye

was still in the hands of the enemy, and Schmidt and two of his men, Corporals Morgu and Venable, encountered an Austrian patrol.

After a plucky fight, during which they captured two men, the three Americans were themselves taken prisoners by the Austrians. As they were wounded, they were taken to an advanced dressing-station, where the next day they were recaptured by the men of the 132nd Infantry in their advance on Consenvoye.

During the entire Meuse-Argonne drive the signal battalion maintained almost uninterrupted communication, working night and day under the most adverse conditions of terrain and weather, to say nothing of the almost inces-

sant fire from the enemy's guns. Under the heaviest shell fire the signal corps men were not able to seek shelter, and every ounce of courage was brought into play in their work. Great credit is due and has been given by commanders of the American and the allied armies to the enlisted men in the battalion.

Many difficulties were encountered at that



TESTING FIELD TELEPHONES  
At division maneuvers near Nançois-le-Petit.



TELEGRAPH STATION AT WILLERONCOURT



PREPARING DINNER AT MOUILLY

time in connection with the radio service. It was necessary to charge the accumulators in the rear and carry them long distances over shell-torn fields. Two men narrowly escaped death while delivering these accumulators—Corporal Jerry Masek being wounded, and Sergeant Jack Scannell escaping injury only because the battery on his shoulder was ward off a shell-fragment.

Promise of rest came when, on October 19, the division was relieved and left the front, the signal battalion going to the quiet village of Ancemont, a short distance south of Verdun on the banks of the

Meuse. Hope ran high as the men marched into the village, but two days later they were again ordered to march, their destination this time being Troyon-sur-Meuse in the St. Mihiel sector. Here they relieved the signal battalion of the Seventy-ninth Division.

As this division had lost its switchboard by fire, the battalion built a new frame in a cell of the town jail, and put into service two new switchboards in record time. The lines in this sector were in poor condition, and to increase their serviceability some of the better ones were phantomized. The greatest difficulty was in maintaining good communications between the front-line trenches and St. Mihiel, and through that point to Toul and Chaumont, where the general headquarters of the A. E. F. were maintained. These difficulties were partly overcome by means of the phantom circuit.

The battalion played its part in the operations of the division in the valley of the Woëvre—operations that came to an end only with the beginning of the armistice on November 11.

During the entire operations of the battalion, the division post of command was kept in touch with all its units from the front line to headquarters, the liaison plans being developed by the division signal officer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Forbes, later chief signal officer of the Ninth Army Corps.

Although the news of the end of hostilities was gladly received, the bat-

talion soon found that it was to be part of the forces to be kept on duty in occupied territory. On December 7, 1918, the battalion began its march. Its destination, when it set out, was Wittlich on the Moselle river in Rhenish Prussia, but new orders were received to take position in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg with headquarters at Diekirch. The advance to Diekirch was through Avillers, Conflans, Aumetz, Esch-sur-Alzette, Itzig, Hostert and Hefingen. Before the corps left Troyon, orders were issued that telephone communications be maintained between the advancing columns and the rear, but as part of the trip was through enemy country, this proved impossible, and telephone service was practically discontinued until Esch, across the Luxemburg border, was reached, and here the civilian system was commandeered.

At Diekirch, then, the battalion took up its abode. A French signal corps unit was still in the town, and it was impossible for the battalion to obtain use of the telephone wires in competition with the French, so once more, unbeknown at first to the French, the device of phantoming the circuit was called successfully into play.

The spirit of inventiveness which had displayed itself early in the training camp times, often stood the battalion in good stead in these days, making possible good communication all the way to Paris from Diekirch by the use of telephone repeaters improvised by the battalion. Finally a complete new plant was installed at Diekirch. When the division headquarters were moved to a different location within the town, the switchboard was transplanted without interruption of service. The radio service was kept in operation, also, particularly for long distance messages and for handling press reports.

Sergeant Leo A. Solinski of Company A constructed a large press sta-



THE WRECK OF A BRIDGE ACROSS FORGES CREEK  
Blown up by the Germans in their retreat.





WIRE CARTS OF THE BATTALION AT TROYON-SUR-MEUSE

tion which made it possible for the division staff to issue a sort of daily newspaper for distribution through the various units. This furnished to the entire division the world's news many hours before the regular newspapers were received.

Time moved slowly for the men but finally, on April 28, 1919, the battalion left Diekirch and entrained for Brest—and home. Arriving at New



ONCE A BEAUTIFUL APPLE ORCHARD AT ESNES



AT HOSTERT, ON THE MARCH TO DIEKIRCH

York, on the former German liner Kaiserin Auguste Victoria, May 24, it proceeded to Camp Mills. Two weeks later the officers and men were separated into groups according to the sections of the country from which they hailed, and were sent to the appropriate camps and demobilized. The main body of the officers and men was mustered out of service at Camp Grant on June 7.



DIVISION SIGNAL OFFICE AT DIEKIRCH



# OFFICERS OF THE 108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION

Left to right, sitting: Major James J. Kelly, Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Forbes, Lieutenant A. Coughnec.  
 Standing: Captains Foster, Morris, Kreis, Sergeant C. S. Standard, Captain Heath, Lieutenants Beaman, Greenwood, Tate, Doyle, Sergeant Joseph F. Ahern, Lieutenants Amba, Dohlon, Captain Cullen, Lieutenant Strahan.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION WHO WERE KILLED  
IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Captain*

Fred A. McAdams

William E. Smith

Lewis F. Thompson

*Corporals*

Benjamin J. Reeder

*Privates*

Charles F. Bonner

Joseph B. Cravens

Reuben T. Strom

William G. Urban

Louis S. Wolfe

— Biver

*Privates, First Class*

Harry C. Hoppe

Ruggerio Marra

Lawrence H. Paske

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION WHO WERE CITED  
FOR BRAVERY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

\* Received citation only from General Pershing.

*Captain*

\* Russell A. Schmidt

*Corporals*

† Edward Iwicki

Rollie E. Masters

ROSTER OF OFFICERS WHO SERVED OVERSEAS

*Lieutenant Colonel*

Charles R. Forbes

A. Cougnenc (8th French Engineers)

Frank D. Cramer

Horace F. Doyle

E. E. Hobday

Richard Sherman

*Majors*

Payson D. Foster

James J. Kelly

M. A. Loosley

John P. Lucas (later Lieutenant Colonel)

*Interpreter*

John Dehlon

*Captains*

Joseph A. Cullen, D. C.

Robert J. Foster

John M. Heath

John Kirby

Richard A. Kreis

Fred A. McAdams  
(deceased)

E. A. Morris, M. C.

Russell A. Schmidt

*First Lieutenants*

Norman J. Ambbs

Vane Beaman

Walter B. Greenwood

Lawrence J. Healy

Leigh H. Lathrop

Phillip W. Reed

Oscar W. Strahan

Thomas B. Tate (later Captain)

Fred A. Waterous



STRINGING WIRES IN WIRTGEN PLATZ, DIEKIRCH

*Second Lieutenants*

Henry Baugh



CAPTAIN RUSSELL A. SCHMIDT

OFFICERS WHO WERE WITH BATTALION  
BEFORE IT WENT OVERSEAS*Major*

Alvin H. McNeal

*Captain*

Luther N. Hull

*First Lieutenants*

Hjalmar B. Hovde

John S. McBride

Lloyd G. Swanson

Edward Tedeski, Jr.

*Second Lieutenants*

J. Collins

Robert K. Rasmussen

DECORATION RECEIVED BY OFFICER OF THE  
108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION*Captain*

Russell A. Schmidt

Distinguished Service Cross

Near Cumières, on October 8, 1918, a detail of five men under command of Captain Schmidt, was attempting to lay a telegraph line across the Meuse River, when it was discovered and attacked by a superior force of the enemy. Even after being wounded three times, Captain Schmidt continued the unequal struggle until all his ammunition was exhausted and all of his men severely wounded. Believing himself mortally wounded, Captain Schmidt then advanced to the enemy's lines and gave himself up in order to save the lives of his men.



## SOME OFFICERS OF THE 108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION

Upper row: Captain Fred A. McAdams, Lieutenants Hjalmar Hovde, J. S. McBride, P. W. Reed.  
Lower row: Lieutenants Edward Tedeski, Jr., Fred A. Waterous, Henry Baugh, J. Collins.



A SUPPLY TRAIN ON ITS WAY TO THE FRONT

## The 108th Trains Headquarters and Military Police

By COLONEL CHARLES DEWEY CENTER



WHEN the Thirty-third Division was organized at Camp Logan, in September, 1917, there were various unit vacancies to be filled, and in the branch of division transport there was a considerable deficiency. There was no ammunition train, no supply train, only the nucleus of a sanitary train, no engineer train, and but the beginning of a field train, or, as it is now designated, front line transport. Artillery units had to be made, machine gun battalions had to be made, trains had to be made.

By the latter part of September it had been determined to make the ammunition and supply trains largely from the former Seventh Illinois

Infantry, the sanitary train to be developed from the healthy nucleus then existing, and the engineer to be made from one company of the former Fifth Illinois Infantry, which regiment had been transformed mainly into machine gun battalions. By October 11 the transformation into the 108th Trains was complete. Companies A to F, inclusive, of the Seventh Infantry, plus Company A of the Fifth, became the ammunition train. Companies G to M of the Seventh composed the supply train. Company M of the Fifth made up the engineer train, while within the regimental units remaining intact there was constructed the battalion and regimental front line transport.

Colonel Daniel Moriarty, who had commanded the Seventh Infantry, was made commander of trains, with Lieutenant Colonel John Clasby of the



**COLONEL CHARLES DEWEY CENTER**  
Commanding the 108th Trains Headquarters and Military Police.

same regiment in command of the ammunition train and Major James E. Brady, also of the Seventh, in command of the supply train. Lieutenant Colonel Clasby had as his two majors, Maurice Holway and Moore, both old Seventh Infantry men.

There ensued a period of "making bricks without straw," for while the personnel of the trains was present and ready for work there was no material to work with. Horses and mules, harness and wagons, motor trucks and caissons, all were lacking. The result was that the companies within the new ammunition and supply trains were used largely for guard duty and camp police work. A camp stockade was erected and a stockade guard formed from companies drawn alternately from the ammunition train and the supply train.

But to return now to the time of the transformation of infantry companies into trains personnel.

Simultaneously with the formation of trains by order came the making of the 108th Military Police. This unit of the Thirty-third Division consisted originally of Companies B and H of the old Fifth Infantry, but two companies in process of development in a new line of work were found insufficient in numbers to do all that was needed in efficient policing. Consequently it was an almost nightly occurrence for a company of the new supply train or the new ammunition train to be ordered down to the city of Houston to go on military police duty. Officers and men in these two trains were willing and anxious to learn their new duties, but days and weeks went by with no opportunity to do so, and it was little wonder that the men became restless and out of hand and that the officers felt they were accomplishing nothing.

In the late fall and early winter changes in the commissioned personnel of the division began to come thick and fast. In November Lieutenant Colonel Clasby tendered his resignation as head of the ammunition train, and Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Center, of the former Fifth, was placed in command. A few days later Major Brady offered his resignation, and was succeeded in command of the supply train by Major Frederick S. Haines.

Then came an official merry-go-round in the course of which it appeared for a time that the whole 108th Trains organization had no commander at all. On



COLONEL DANIEL MORIARTY  
Commander of the old "Fighting Seventh."



December 10 Colonel Moriarty was relieved of the command of trains headquarters and military police. On the same date Lieutenant Colonel Center was ordered to assume command, in addition to his other duties, but on December 11 an order was received at division headquarters to send Lieutenant Colonel Center to France at once. Telegraphic inquiry to the War Department elicited the information that this assignment did not create a vacancy in any command held by Lieutenant Colonel Center, and it seemed that neither the trains headquarters and military police nor the ammunition train was to have a commanding officer nearer than France.

A succession of orders, however, straightened things out. On December 26 Lieutenant Colonel Center was made colonel and placed in command of the trains headquarters and military police. Major John V. Clinnin, of the former First Illinois Infantry, was transferred from his battalion, made a lieutenant colonel and put in command of the ammunition train. Immediately following this he was ordered to assume command of the trains headquarters and military police as well.

In April, 1918, further changes were made. Lieutenant Colonel Clinnin was made a colonel in regular command of the 108th Trains Headquarters and Military Police; Colonel Center, still in France, was placed in command of the 130th Infantry, the old Fourth Illinois; and Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Fisher of the 122nd Field Artillery was placed in command of the 108th Ammunition Train. This was the status of the trains when the Thirty-third Division was ordered overseas.

On arrival in France the divisional artillery and the ammunition train were detached from the division, not to rejoin it until after the armistice began. The division retained its supply train, its engineer train, and its sanitary train. These trains and the military police accompanied the division to the Huppy area.

On June 6, 1918, came a further transfer of officers. Colonel Center rejoined the division, and the commanding general, learning that the six months he had spent in France had been given largely to the handling of division transport, assigned him to the trains headquarters and military police, changing places with Colonel Clinnin, who was transferred to the 130th Infantry. One other change had been made just before the divisions left for France. Major Grover Sexton, who had been in command of the two companies of military police at Camp Logan, was relieved and Major Arthur L. Hart of the 132nd Infantry was put in charge.

The month of June saw the movement of the division first to the Eu area, then to that of Molliens, where, with divisional combat troops in the line, the 108th Trains began to function more fully than they had previously. At this time, it may be said, the engineer train and the sanitary train functioned completely, as they were adequately equipped. There was no ammunition train, this line of supply being handled by the British. The supply train, being dependent on the British for motor trucks, functioned only partially. The military police companies functioned in an entirely satisfactory manner, and even

took over some work which belonged to British troops, such as the establishing and maintaining of road patrols, traffic control posts, and straggler lines. At this time Major Hart was made provost marshal for the division.

During the months of June and July the two military police companies, Company A, Captain William Troxell commanding, and Company B, Captain Herbert Algeo, were functioning fully in the British area. In July Captain Algeo was transferred to the 122nd Machine Gun Battalion, and First Lieutenant T. C. Killoran was promoted and placed in command of Company B. In this month, also, Company B was withdrawn from the divi-



KING GEORGE AND GENERAL PERSHING INSPECTING THE 108TH MILITARY POLICE AT MOLLIENS-AU-BOIS

sion to be used as corps military police, and until the return of the division to the United States this company was lost to the Thirty-third Division.

It was in this same month that Company A of the military police acted as guard of honor to King George of England, who, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, came to the division headquarters and bestowed decorations on a number of officers and men of the Thirty-third.

In August the division moved into reserve in the St. Mihiel sector for the impending campaign against the famous German salient. While here, the supply train, the sanitary train, the engineer train, and the military police company did good work. Another change in the commissioned personnel of trains headquarters and military police took place just prior to this move of



THE ROAD TO "TOOT SWEET CORNER" AT  
CONSENVOYE

the division. Captain Perley B. Tileston, who had come over-seas as trains headquarters adjutant, was transferred, because of his experience and technical knowledge, to the A. E. F. postal service. He was succeeded at trains headquarters by First Lieutenant Joseph A. S. Ehart, who was later promoted to the rank of captain and remained ad-

jutant until the Thirty-third Division was mustered out of the Federal service.

On the termination of the St. Mihiel drive the division was sent to the sector north of Verdun and west of the Meuse. While here the supply train acted largely as both supply train and ammunition train. Here, too, all the trains and the military police suffered casualties. Men of Company B of the military police, the company detached for corps police, were in Verdun and also suffered heavily in casualties.

All through the Meuse-Argonne operations traffic conditions were exceptionally desperate, and the enlisted personnel of all trains and the military police company worked almost as supermen to keep roads open and get up supplies. At this time, too, the front line transport did exceptionally brilliant work in obtaining from the advance dumps rations and ammunition and in transporting these materials by animal drawn transport, and by hand in some cases, to the combat units in line. Working day and night, these men did the superhuman, they saw when it was impossible to see, they got their limbers and wagons through when there seemed no way, they risked their lives night after night when there was no one to take cognizance of the risk and commend them for it, they felt no mud was too deep, no weariness too much, no danger too great, could they but get supplies up to their "buddies" at the front.

Before this Meuse-



THE WEST GATE TO VERDUN

Argonne campaign was over Major Hart broke down under his heavy work as head of the military police and provost marshal of the division and finally, but only on the order of his superior officer, went to the hospital, never to take active duty again. He was succeeded as provost marshal by Captain Troxell of the military police.

It was in October that the organization which was formerly known as the 108th Military Police was converted into the Thirty-third Division Military Police Company.

The latter part of October the Thirty-third Division was withdrawn from the Meuse and sent to the Troyon sector, south of Verdun. Here First Lieu-



TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES TO THE FRONT  
On the Meuse-Rhine Canal near Troyon.

tenant Francis Ryan, of the military police company, was wounded, was sent to a hospital and did not rejoin the division.

Following the signing of the armistice, the division began its march into Luxemburg. While on this march Captain Troxell was relieved of his duties as provost marshal and head of the military police and was later transferred to a position in the S. O. S. At this time, because of transfers and casualties, there was but one remaining officer assigned to the military police company of the division, First Lieutenant James A. Corey. He assumed command and, single-handed, directed the military police for the remainder of the Luxemburg march. The duties of provost marshal for the division were assigned to the trains commander. Immediately upon the arrival of the division in Luxemburg First Lieutenant L. D. Smith, an officer of unusual executive ability, was transferred from the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion to the Thirty-third Military Police Company and promoted to be captain.



HEAVY TRAFFIC THROUGH MOUILLY

One fact connected with the 108th Supply Train, on the march into Luxemburg, is worthy of mention. Motor transportation equipment was so scarce that no unit could advance with all its material and necessary supplies. The result was that the supply train, working twenty or more hours a day, found it necessary to push forward with one load, deliver it at a given objective, and return to the previous base for another load. This doubling back and forth by night and day enabled the supply train to keep supplies of all kinds up with the moving troops.

In Luxemburg, with the Thirty-third acting as a part of the Army of Occupation, an order was received to construct within the division an additional company of military police. As the division was occupying eighty-four towns and five-sixths of the total area of the grand duchy, as there were about fifty additional towns within this territory not occupied by troops, and as the troops themselves had been restless since the termination of hostilities, it was determined that another company of military police could be used to advantage.

Upon request Captain Killoran was returned to the division and placed in command of this new company, to be known as the 272nd Military Police Company. This company was an exceptional organization, inasmuch as it was made up entirely of men who were selected from the various infantry and artillery regiments and from the machine gun battalions and who then were examined carefully to determine their fitness for this kind of duty. The order of General Bell was: "I want these men hand-picked, and made into the finest company in the A. E. F."

Requisition was made for additional officers for this company, which resulted in the transfer of Lieutenants G. A. Wilson, T. D. Heider and H. D. Moore from replacements, of Lieutenant Peter Sorenson from the 130th Infantry, Lieutenant Ray Sinnock from the 123rd Machine Gun Battalion, and of Lieutenant Frank Scarlock from the 123rd Field Artillery. To the great regret

of everyone in the division, the company, as soon as it was trained in its new duties, was withdrawn from the division to become army military police.

The work of the men of the trains and the military police is rarely spectacular. The results depend largely on each individual—his courage, his devotion, his hardihood. Much of the time he must do his duty without the supervision of an officer. Every day

is a day of labor for him. There is nothing romantic in driving a motor truck, an ambulance, or a four-mule team. More than this, the very nature of the work involved makes it doubly difficult for the man laboring in it to live and appear as a well dressed, well set-up soldier, and it is a well known fact that soldiers, if allowed to go ragged, greasy and dirty, lose their morale. But the majority of the men of the trains rose above these handicaps and remained brave, cheerful, self-reliant soldiers through it all.

The commander of the 108th Trains Headquarters and Military Police cannot say enough in appreciation of the officers and men of the various trains and of the military police. When other divisions were stalled in the mud and

unable to move, the supply train was rushing the rations along, the engineer train was getting the road material up, the sanitary train was getting the wounded back, the military police were establishing traffic posts, control posts and straggler lines, and all doing it in such a quiet and efficient manner that they received many words of commendation from the division, brigade and regimental commanders.



HOME OF MARIE ADELAIDE AT COLMAR

Where the ex-Grand Duchess made her home after abdicating in favor of her sister. Thirty-third Division M. P.'s on guard.



CATHEDRAL OF ST. LAURENT AT DIEKIRCH



OFFICERS OF THE 108TH TRAINS HEADQUARTERS AND MILITARY POLICE

Left to right, standing: Lieutenants Moore, Heider, Sorenson, Wilson, Captain Duffy, Lieutenants Scarlock and Corey.  
Sitting: Captains Smith and Killoran, Colonel Center, Captains Ehart and Slack, Lieutenant Zohn.

## THE 108TH TRAINS HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY POLICE 725

### 108TH TRAINS HEADQUARTERS AND MILITARY POLICE, ROSTER OF OFFICERS WHO SERVED DURING ACTIVE OPERATIONS

#### *Colonel*

Charles D. Center

Perley B. Tileston

William H. Troxell

#### *Major*

A. L. Hart

#### *First Lieutenants*

James A. Corey

Harvey J. Doyle

Francis P. Ryan

Jacob H. Zohn

#### *Captains*

Herbert Algeo

Joseph A. S. Ehart

T. C. Killoran

Orvil O'Neill, M. C.

Roy B. Slack, D. C.

Lawrence D. Smith

#### *Second Lieutenants*

Robert W. Inghram

Martin Stillinger

### OFFICERS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO UNIT AFTER ARMISTICE

#### *Captain*

Mark M. Duffy, M. C.

#### *Second Lieutenants*

T. D. Heider

H. D. Moore

Merrill Pratt

Frank Scarlock

Ray Sinnock

#### *First Lieutenants*

Peter Sorenson

G. A. Wilson



A GLIMPSE OF THE MEUSE RIVER AND CANAL AT VILOSNES

This German machine gun was aimed at a dressing station of the 108th Sanitary Train.





COLONEL HARRY D. ORR

First commander 108th Sanitary Train; later division surgeon, Thirty-third Division.



GARAGE OF THE AMBULANCE SECTIONS AT CAMP LOGAN

## The 108th Sanitary Train

BY COLONEL HARRY D. ORR.



WHEN the United States declared war with Germany the medical department of the Illinois National Guard was far short of its proper strength. For the most part the several regimental medical detachments were complete, but that highly important and necessary divisional organization, the sanitary train, had never been authorized as part of the state's military forces.

As soon as it had been decided to form a full division from the Illinois National Guard, energetic steps were taken under the administration of Colonel Jacob Frank, surgeon-general of the state, to recruit a full complement of sanitary troops. As a nucleus there were two field hospitals, both of which had seen service on the Mexican border in 1916. The older of these units, Field Hospital No. 1 (subsequently designated Field Hospital 129), was commanded by Major William J. Swift, who

had organized it in 1913. The other, Field Hospital No. 2 (afterwards Field Hospital 131), had been organized in 1915 and placed under the command of Major Gustavus Blech.

The personnel of these units, like that of many other organizations, had changed greatly after their return from the border, but there remained a skeleton organization of trained officers and men whose enthusiasm and zeal became a most valuable asset in the strenuous days which followed.

To supplement these units the formation of two additional field hospitals and four ambulance companies was ordered. Field Hospitals Nos. 3

and 4 (subsequently Field Hospitals 130 and 132, respectively) were organized by Major F. O. Frederickson and Major James J. McKinley. The units later to be known as Ambulance Companies 129, 130, 131 and 132 were recruited by their respective commanders, Lieutenant George U. Lipschulch, Lieutenant Henry C. Johannes, Lieutenant Charles S. Kubik and Lieutenant Raymond B. Kepner.

Field Hospital 129 was sent to Camp Logan with the advance units of the Thirty-third Division in August, 1917. It performed valuable service at the time of the race riots in Houston that fall and during the construction of the camp. For nearly two months it served as the base hospital, utilizing mess halls while the hospital buildings were being constructed.



AN EXPERIMENT IN INDIVIDUAL COOKING

Later, the other units proceeded to the camp for training. The four ambulance companies were united as an ambulance section under Major Harry D. Orr, formerly regimental surgeon of the 122nd Field Artillery, as director of ambulance companies, and the four field hospitals were placed under the command of Major Swift, who had been made director of field hospitals.

Captain Charles Schott succeeded Major Swift as commander of Field Hospital 129, and, when Major Blech was transferred from Field Hospital 131 to become assistant to the division surgeon, his place was taken by Major Eugene G. Clancy, formerly regimental surgeon of the Seventh Illinois Infantry. Subsequently Major Swift resigned, Major Clancy was made director of field hospitals, and Major Robert C. Gay, regimental surgeon of the 122nd Field Artillery, was made commander of Field Hospital 131.



DRESSING STATION PRACTICE AT CAMP LOGAN

From the outset the work of the sanitary units was heavy. Although the winter was the most severe that Houston had experienced in years, active drill was kept up, except for one week. Each unit was thoroughly trained in first aid, nursing and military hygiene. In addition road and field work was constantly carried on by the entire train, especially the ambulance companies, whose normal activities tend extensively in this direction. Schools were organized for cooks, mechanics and ambulance drivers, in order to create a surplus of trained men for any emergency, primarily for the replacement of casualties and to provide for war-time operation in small units.

Early in March, 1918, in conformity with new regulations, the field hospital and ambulance sections were combined to form the 108th Sanitary Train. Major Orr was promoted to lieutenant colonel and made train commander; Major Gay became director of ambulance companies, and Major Daniel W. Rogers, until then regimental surgeon of the 124th Field Artillery, took command of Field Hospital 131. Shortly after these changes were made Lieutenant Lipschulch was transferred to the base hospital service, and Lieutenant Benedict Aron was placed in command of Ambulance Company 129.

Evidence of the train's fitness for field service was given early in the spring of 1918, when the entire organization made a ninety-mile hike, carrying full field equipment, in five marching days. The hike was the first extensive road work attempted by any unit of the division and was completed with success. Finally, to round out



A DRESSING STATION DUGOUT AT CAMP LOGAN

the training of the field hospital companies, a completely equipped field hospital was pitched on the camp drill field and operated as a convalescent camp. Patients were sent there from the base hospital, and each company took charge in turn.

A little later the long expected embarkation orders were received. The sanitary train followed the other units of the division, leaving Camp Logan on May 15 and arriving in Liverpool exactly one month later, having crossed on the British steamship Adriatic. After a stay of a few days in England the train crossed the channel, landing at Havre on June 20.

Greatly to the disappointment of all ranks, the train was divided at Havre. Field Hospitals 131 and 132, Ambulance Companies 131 and 132, and Field Hospital Headquarters, all under Major Clancy, were sent to the Long training area, while the other units of the train proceeded with the Thirty-third Division to Molliens-au-Bois, in the Amiens sector.

Inasmuch as British equipment was to be used by all arms while they were in the Amiens area, the sanitary train companies were reorganized to correspond with medical units of the British Army. Study of the British methods showed that the combination of a field hospital and an ambulance company would result in a unit very like the British field ambulance, of which there are three to a division. Accordingly, Field Hospital 129 and Ambulance Company 129 were combined to form the 129th Provisional Field Ambulance, under the command of Major Gay. Field Hospital 130 and Ambulance Company 130 formed the 130th Provisional Field Ambulance under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Orr.



ON THE NINETY-MILE HIKE TO THE GULF OF MEXICO  
A partial view of the camp at Morgan's Point.



A BOMB FROM A GERMAN PLANE MADE THIS LITTLE POND IN PIERREGOT

The former of these provisional organizations went into training at Famechon, where it operated in conjunction with the Forty-second Field Ambulance, British Expeditionary Forces. The 130th remained at Molliens-au-Bois, training with the 2/3 East Lancashire Field Ambulance.

During this period the Thirty-third Division saw action for the first time, and detachments from the sanitary train participated. Lieutenant Daniel W. Jeffries, while on temporary duty with the 132nd Infantry, was seriously wounded at the beginning of the famous Independence Day attack on Hamel, and was sent to a hospital in England.

The 130th Provisional Field Ambulance took over the equipment and work of the 2/3 East Lancashire Field Ambulance on July 12, a few days after assuming charge of the division sick-collecting station at Pierregot, which served both British and American troops. A little later its Section C, commanded by Captain Claude Weldy, took over an advanced dressing station just behind Albert on the Albert-Amiens road.



At the same time rotating details of enlisted men were sent forward to various main dressing stations, advance dressing stations, bearer posts and relay posts to as-

RELAY POST ON ALBERT-AMIENS ROAD



ENTRANCE TO ADVANCED DRESSING STATION  
On the Albert-Amiens road.

sist the British and receive instruction. In this manner officers and men worked regularly with the Twelfth, Forty-seventh, Eighteenth and Fifty-eighth British Divisions, in addition to serving their own Sixty-sixth Brigade in front of Vaden-court, Hénencourt and Montigny and immediately behind Albert.

The 129th Provisional Field Ambulance, meanwhile, engaged in equally important activities. Moving from Famechon to Allonville on July 18

with the Sixty-fifth Brigade and joining the Third Australian Corps, it performed its duties so effectively as to receive special commendation from the Australians. The bearer section commanded by Lieutenant F. I. Stuart received particular mention for service during the attack on July 28 and 29. Another bearer section was commended for courageous work on August 19.

This provisional company conducted a divisional sick-collecting station at Famechon, a main dressing station at Smith's Farm on the Corbie-Sailly-Laurette road and, later, a divisional sick-collecting station at Petit Camon.



ADVANCED DRESSING STATION BEHIND ALBERT  
Operated by Provisional Field Ambulance 130. One of the entrances is shown above.

During the same period numerous details of officers and men were sent to other stations.

In these operations both provisional field ambulances received extensive and valuable experience in every phase of combat warfare. Moreover, they rendered service which won profuse commendation from the British.

On August 23 the Thirty-third Division began leaving the British sector to join the First American Army. The movement was made by rail, and by August 26 the entire division had been concentrated in the region of Tronville-en-Barrois.

The transfer reestablished American methods. The provisional field ambulances were broken up and the units re-formed according to the American tables of organization. Field Hospital 129 opened a sick collecting station at Tronville, where division headquarters were established. The other units were equipped and held in readiness for an expected offensive.

Field Hospitals 131 and 132 now rejoined the division. On August 31 they moved from the Langres training area to Tronville by motor truck.



DUGOUT RELAY POST BEFORE  
HENENCOURT

Used by Provisional Field Ambulance 130.



FIELD HOSPITAL 129 AT TRONVILLE



They were not accompanied by the ambulance companies, however. Ambulance Company 131, it was learned, had been sent to the motor ambulance assembly base at St. Nazaire, while Ambulance Company 132 had been attached to Red Cross Hospital 114 at Fleury.

These transfers were a disappointment, though the two ambulance companies later won distinction for their division by rendering valuable service. At St. Nazaire Ambulance Company 131 established a new record in assembling motor ambulances and was employed in camp construction, road building, guard duty and, in fact, almost everything except the work for which its members had been trained.



SIVRY-LA-PERCHE: SANITARY TRAIN HEADQUARTERS JUST BEFORE THE MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

Ambulance Company 132 made itself invaluable at Fleury, furnishing the personnel for the operation of the hospital, though the men had been trained for other than hospital service.

It was at Fleury that Lieutenant Leslie Phillips, after days and nights of ceaseless toil during an influenza epidemic, succumbed to pneumonia. Moreover, all the other officers and many enlisted men contracted influenza. Lieutenants Kepner, Remer and Johnston were evacuated because of illness, leaving Captain Isaac F. Clark, who had become company commander, the only officer on duty.

Absence of these units made a gap in the ranks of the sanitary train. Although Army Ambulance Section 600, consisting of one officer and thirty-two men, with twelve ambulances, was attached to the division, the train was still short 200 men and sixteen ambulances. The newcomers, however, did much to supply the deficiency. They were, for the most part, college

men who had been trained at Allentown, Pennsylvania, for service in Italy. Under the able command of Lieutenant Kenneth A. Mohrhardt, they performed valuable service with the Thirty-third Division until they were transferred to Evacuation Hospital No. 13 at Commercy, November 10, 1918.



FRENCH HOSPITAL AT GLORIEUX, USED AS TRIAGE

During the period of waiting, the sanitary train received considerable quantities of American medical equipment which, added to the British equipment already on hand, and the supplies brought by Field Hospitals Nos. 131 and 132, prepared all units for the offensives ahead of them. Motor transportation was the greatest problem. Even at the time of initial equipment, the authorized allowance was not reached. The trucks allotted to the train were old, and half of them had to be towed away from the distribution park. But, by pooling transportation and moving in relays, the train was able not only to function properly but also, at times, to give valuable assistance to other organizations.

On September 5 the division, including the sanitary train, moved forward past Verdun and relieved the 157th and 120th French Divisions in the



THE 130TH A. C. WORKING AT MONTZEVILLE

The forward litter, pneumatic-tired, was a souvenir of training with the British. The second cart, steel-tired, was French.

Dead Man's Hill and Hill 304 sectors. At Glorieux, just outside of Verdun, in quarters occupied by a French Hospital, Field Hospital 131 established a triage (sorting station). A gas center was set up at Souhesme by Field Hospital 130, and a station for division sick and slightly wounded was opened by Field Hospital 132 at Fontaine-Routon. To Ambulance Company 130 was assigned the task of evacuating the forward



DRESSING STATION AT CHATTANCOURT  
Used by Ambulance Company 130.

area, while Ambulance Company 129 worked feverishly on an immense underground combat dressing station at La Claire.

Changes in plans at the last moment made several moves necessary. Field Hospital 130 moved its gas center to Fromeréville and then to Glorieux; Field Hospital 131 shifted from

Glorieux to Fromeréville and back to Glorieux, while Ambulance Company 129 was sent to Cumières to establish a dressing station.

Meanwhile tremendous preparations were being made for the great Meuse-Argonne offensive of the American army. Approach of night was the signal for feverish activity everywhere behind the lines. Artillery was dragged into camouflaged positions; steady streams of troops and supplies moved forward to the line; and the enemy, sensing danger, maintained a steady fire.

The Germans were nervous and subjected the American area to continual bombardment. The enemy occupied the dominating heights in the entire region and outflanked most of the American positions, so that one never knew from which direction shells were to come. Moreover, German



NOT A WALL WAS LEFT STANDING IN CUMIERES  
Cumières was used as a dressing station by Ambulance Company 129.

airplanes were to be seen at all times, despite the cloudy and rainy weather. Every crossroad was subjected to intense, spasmodic fire.

On September 25 the tremendous flood of men, cannon and supplies reached its height, indicating that the zero hour was near at hand. At 11 o'clock that night the heavens were rent by the most terrific artillery bombardment of the war. Thousands of guns let loose a storm of shells. On the slopes of Dead Man's Hill, cannon stood almost hub to hub, joining in the frightful chorus of destruction.

At 5:30 a. m. the tune changed. It was the zero hour, and the men of the 131st and 132nd Infantry attacked. In the wake of the 131st Captain



A VIEW SOUTH FROM BETHINCOURT

Over territory such as this the ambulance companies operated.

Donald I. Stanton established an advance dressing station at Drillancourt, in the forward edge of Forges Wood, which had just been captured from the enemy. The next day the main dressing station party of Field Ambulance 130 pushed through the shambles of Bethincourt and established itself in a dugout on Hill 281, just evacuated by a German medical unit.

Early in the attack Field Hospital 129, under command of Major Schott, was pushed into the slow-moving column of forward-creeping transportation to drift across No Man's Land to a location on captured ground near Bethincourt. There a dressing and collecting station was established. A little later it was operated as a triage. The station was dangerously exposed, for no vestige of shelter of any sort remained. American hospital tents were pitched in the open, under Red Cross flags, and there officers and men labored un-



PART OF THE A. E. F. CEMETERY AT GLORIEUX

ceasingly and with **their** usual zeal, without regard for personal safety. Nearly all the tents were pierced by shrapnel, but the only person wounded was a man on guard, who was shot through the arm by a machine-gun bullet from an airplane.

On October 3 a shell exploded in the dug-out dressing station on Hill 281, manned by Ambulance Company 130. Captain J. H. Reed of Field Hospital 130, temporarily assigned to the station, was instantly killed; Captain Jason N. Smith, commanding the station, was stunned, and Corporal Eugene McIntyre was seriously wounded in the thigh.

Disregarding their own injuries, Captain Smith and Corporal McIntyre looked after the other wounded, moving them to comparatively safe positions. McIntyre kept at his work until he fainted from loss of blood, an act of devotion which won him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Meanwhile another shell, exploding outside the station, where an ambulance was being loaded, had killed several men and seriously wounded Sergeant Allen Thurston, who was directing the loading of the ambulances. Although bleeding profusely from a dangerous abdominal wound, Sergeant Thurston refused attention until all the wounded had been removed.

Major Frederickson, who had dashed through a storm of fire down the road from Ger-court in a motorcycle driven by Wagoner Charles A. Baudouine, took command of the shattered station and ordered it evacuated. Subsequently, when the



ADVANCED DRESSING STATION AT DRILLANCOURT

130th Infantry relieved the 320th Infantry (Eightieth Division) on the left of the Thirty-third's front, the station was established at Gercourt.

With the first phase of the offensive over, Field Hospital 130 closed its gas center at Glorieux and pushed forward to Bethincourt, to open a corps non-transportable wounded hospital. Field Hospital 132 took over the triage at Glorieux, relieving Field Hospital 131, which had handled with splendid efficiency the thousands of wounded who poured in during the first few days of the drive.

Field Hospital 132 had made a wonderful record serving as a hospital for non-transportable wounded at Glorieux, a task which demanded the utmost care and skill, since the lives of the desperately wounded men sent to such a



DRESSING STATION AT GERCOURT USED BY AMBULANCE COMPANY 130  
The front of the building, facing the German rear.

station often depend on the accuracy of diagnoses to determine whether or not transportation to an evacuation hospital is possible.

Here Corporal Margraff died, his devotion to duty and disregard for his own health and strength during those crowded days having so undermined his resistance that he fell an easy victim to pneumonia.

From five to ten of every 100 wounded men received during a battle may be classed as non-transportable. Although too severely wounded to be moved, some of these men may be saved by immediate operation. Following the example of the French Medical Service, the medical authorities of the A. E. F. ordered the organization of mobile surgical units to deal with non-transportable cases. The equipment for such a unit included a complete portable X-ray outfit, operating tables and sterilizers, in charge of an officer who was an expert radiologist. Lieutenant Clarence P. Harris joined



THE CHALK PIT AT BRABANT

At the left can be seen a projecting corner of the dressing station.

the division early in September with the necessary equipment and a mobile unit was formed.

Major George C. Amerson, regimental surgeon of the 131st Infantry, was placed in charge of the unit as surgeon. He was assisted by Lieutenant Melbourne Mabey of Field Hospital 131, Lieutenant William J. F. Thompson of Field Hospital 132, and an enlisted personnel of thirteen men. Operating at Glorieux and Fromeréville, the unit rendered splendid service and was responsible for the saving of many lives.

For eleven days after the launching of the American attack the Thirty-



THE BEST HOUSES IN THIERVILLE

All three buildings were used by the 108th Sanitary Train.

third Division formed the right of the First American Army. It was the only division on the long line from the Meuse to the Argonne which reached its objective on schedule time. As a result its position was a sharp salient, exposed on three sides to incessant and murderous fire from the surrounding heights.

At the end of the eleventh day, on October 6, the division, without change of position, was attached to the Seventeenth French Army Corps, on the right of the First American Army, so that it formed the extreme left of the French line.

Two days later the Seventeenth French Corps attacked from Beaumont to the Meuse. The 132nd Infantry crossed the Meuse, under shell fire, at two points, using bridges constructed and kept in repair by the 108th Engineers under direct observation from enemy positions beyond the river. The regiment captured Consenvoye and the Bois de Chaume.

Ambulance Company 129 established a collecting point just back of Consenvoye and a dressing station at the Brabant chalk pit, from which wounded men were removed to Field Hospital 132 at Glorieux. Lieutenants John E. Heslin and Oswald Schiffli, with their dressing station parties, particularly distinguished themselves in establishing advanced stations at exposed points in order to afford better service.

As the fighting progressed the absence of the two ambulance companies that had been detached was keenly felt, for trained men were sorely needed. All of the regimental bandsmen had been turned over to the sanitary train



A GLIMPSE OF THE MEUSE AT BRABANT



early in the offensive for service as stretcher-bearers or nurses. They performed their tasks well, but many of them, in their zeal, took unusual and hazardous risks, which resulted in a large number of gas casualties and reduced the meager personnel.

On several occasions hundreds of German prisoners were pressed into service as litter-bearers to relieve the exhausted ambulance companies. They worked so willingly, although worn to exhaustion, that they were set to such duties as policing around the dressing stations and loading ambulances.

And now, in time to be of valuable service, the missing units of the train came back. On October 17 Ambulance Company 131, commanded by Captain Kubik, reported to sanitary train headquarters at Thierville and was



FIELD HOSPITALS 130 AND 131 AT FERME DES PALAMEIX

rushed to the front in small detachments to work with and relieve Ambulance Companies 129 and 130.

These men, fresh from the motor ambulance assembly base at St. Nazaire, received their baptism of fire like veterans. Two members, Privates Ralph Weaver and Howard Snyder, were killed shortly after going on duty when a shell struck a hastily constructed shelter of elephant iron under which they were sleeping. The legs of both men were blown off by the shell, and they died before they could be taken to the dressing station at Gercourt. Private McGinnis of the same company, and Private (First-class) John M. Mallace and Wagoner Walter Merker of Ambulance Company 130 were severely wounded when on duty along a road just back of Dannevoux.

Field Hospitals 130 and 131 moved to Charny in order to be ready for a new offensive, and handed Glorieux over to the sanitary train of the Twenty-ninth Division, which already was in position there, and was coöperating in the operation of the triage.



IN THE RUINS OF THE CHAPEL AT NOTRE DAME DES PALAMEIX

Father Girard saying mass, November 2, 1918.

The relief of the Thirty-third Division by the Fifteenth French Colonial Infantry Division began on October 21. Field Hospital 130 was rushed to Génicourt, where it made ready to serve the division in its new area. The other units moved to Fauborg Pave, the ambulance section furnishing attendance for all organizations on the march. Two days later, the Thirty-third Division began relieving the Seventy-ninth Division in the Troyon sector, the move cutting short all dreams of a rest period.

At about this time Ambulance Company 132 also returned to the train, worn and exhausted by long hospital service at Fleury. Many of the officers and men were just recovering from the effects of an epidemic of influenza, but all were eager for a chance to get into action in the forward area.

Field Hospital 129 took over a triage at Ferme des Palameix, near Vaux, and Field Hospital 131 assumed charge of the gas depart-



THE CHURCH AT DOMMARTIN

Showing the great hole made by a German shell.



**ON THE MORNING OF ARMISTICE DAY**

The dressing station of Ambulance Company 132 in Dommartin.

ment. Ambulance Company 129 took over a dressing station at Dommartin. Field Hospital 130 moved from Génicourt to Troyon and continued operation, and Field Hospital 132 opened a division sick-collecting station at Ambly.

A few days later Field Hospital 130 moved to Ferme des Palameix to become a permanent gas hospital with facilities for operation in two or more sections. Field Hospital 131 took over the triage at the farm, relieving Field Hospital 129, which moved to Creue in preparation for a new offensive. Am-



**A GENERAL VIEW OF DOMMARTIN**

bulance Company 131 established a dressing station just behind St. Maurice. Ambulance Company 132 moved to Dommartin to relieve Ambulance Company 129, taking with it horse-drawn ambulances for use on that part of the plain of the Woëvre which was impassable for heavy motor ambulances.

That night the village was subjected to a heavy bombardment by the Germans. A shell blew in the end of a church which had been used by the Germans as a dressing station and continued as such by the Americans, but, fortunately, no one was injured. However, Wagoners Robert McGrew and William Crowse of Ambulance Company 132 and Private (First-class) Robert Tatman of Ambulance Company 130, while in a horse-drawn ambulance, were seriously wounded by shrapnel exploding overhead. Many gas casualties were sustained the following day on the plain of the Woëvre.

On November 10 a new and final offensive began. When it became evident that the enemy would give way, Ambulance Companies 129 and 130 took up their positions with the northern and southern pursuit columns, respectively, while Field Hospital 131, with the gas section of Field Hospital 130, prepared to open a forward triage at Thillot, on the plain of the Woëvre.

The next day the armistice put an end to these plans.

All units now prepared for an extended stay, Field Hospitals 129 and 132 elaborating their hospitalization facilities at Creue and Ambly, respectively. The stay was not so long as had been expected, however. Early in December the division started eastward as part of the Army of Occupation, moving through Luxemburg, across the Moselle river into Germany, then back into Luxemburg.

Under the skillful supervision of the director of ambulance companies the roads were patrolled, and ambulances served all organizations on the move. The evacuation of the sick was carried out efficiently and satisfactorily.

The field hospitals showed their adaptability by leap-frogging each other and through their efficient operation they saved many men to the division by making their removal to the rear unnecessary.



HOMeward BOUND  
The Germans leaving Echternach.

Field Hospitals 129, 130 and 131 operated at Conflans, Briey, Aumetz, Ottingen, Sandweiler, Grevenmacher, Larochette, Ettelbrück and Echternach along the route. The three stations last named became permanent sites for Field Hospitals 130, 129 and 131, respectively. Hospitalization was elaborated to the fullest extent of equipment and skill, and here, within the limits set by the army, the sick of the division were attended in a manner reflecting great credit on the medical officers and the enlisted men of the field hospitals.

At Echternach Field Hospital 131 took over a well located evacuation hospital, including patients and equipment. At Ettelbrück Field Hospital 129 operated in a steam-heated school building. Field Hospital 130, at Larochette, had a small hotel and one floor of a cigar factory. Ambulance Company 130 worked with Field Hospital 131. Ambulance Company 131 operated with Field Hospital 129, and the motor section of Ambulance Company 132 worked with Field Hospital 130. The rest of Ambulance Company 132 and Field Hospital 132, being horse-drawn, did not function as medical units but served as the supply company of the sanitary train and hospitals, occupying the town of Cruchten. Ambulance Company 129, at Diekirch, did general emergency and relief service in that area, in which were headquarters of the field hospital section, the ambulance section and the sanitary train. Diekirch was also division headquarters.

Early in January, 1919, Colonel L. M. Hathaway, division surgeon, was promoted to the post of chief surgeon of the Ninth Corps and left the division, much to the regret of all ranks. Colonel Hathaway was a most efficient medical officer of the regular service and had endeared himself to the officers



FIELD HOSPITAL 130 ARRIVING AT LAROCLETTE

and men of the medical department and especially to the sanitary train. Brave, courageous, energetic, possessed of untiring energy, exacting but sympathetic and fair, Colonel Hathaway had grown so into the lives of the officers and men of the sanitary train that each felt a personal loss in his departure to larger responsibilities. The remarkable efficiency shown in all branches of the division's medical department was in a very large measure due to his valuable and splendid leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Orr was made division surgeon, later being promoted to the rank of colonel, and Major Amerson, regimental surgeon of the 131st Infantry, was made lieutenant colonel and commander of the train. Major Gay was made division supervisor of delousing and bathing, and was succeeded, as director of ambulance companies, by Major James J. McKinley, commander of Field Hospital 132.

Shortly after May 1, when the last unit of the division had entrained for Brest to embark for the United States, the sanitary train ended its service as a medical organization, turned in its equipment, and proceeded to Brest. In the middle of May the train boarded the transport America, with the Fifty-eighth Artillery Brigade, and, after a stormy voyage, landed at Hoboken on May 24. At Camp Mills officers and men from states other than Illinois were detached and sent to camps near their homes for discharge. The others entrained for Chicago, Camp Grant and home.

Among all the glorious accomplishments of the Thirty-third Division none are more splendid than those of the 108th Sanitary Train. The handling and care of the sick and wounded, during active operations as well as in quiet periods, was conspicuous for its splendid efficiency. By their work the officers and men made the sanitary train known as one of the best medical organizations of the A. E. F.

The division fought alongside the Australians, the English and the French in the First and Second American armies. In each case the sanitary train adapted itself to the conditions which it found, acquiring a versatility and adaptability second to none.

Zealous, resourceful and always cheerful, officers and men alike performed their tasks with remarkable efficiency. Stretcher-bearers, tenderly and



LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE C.  
AMERSON



INSPECTION OF FIELD HOSPITAL 131 AT ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBURG

carefully carrying the wounded from battalion aid posts to dressing stations, often under fire and over shell-torn ways, displayed a spirit in keeping with the best American traditions. No less gallant was the service of the nurses in the field hospitals and ambulance companies who ministered to the wounded and dying until they themselves fell exhausted. All displayed a magnificent spirit, although their work was accompanied by none of the excitement and glamour that attend the fighting men in their careers.

In the medical department, as well as in other branches, night work was absolutely necessary, in order that the enemy might not secure information as to plans and the location of supply centers and stations. As this condition existed on both sides, unusual artillery activity was developed at night to hinder the movement of troops and supplies and the construction of roads and bridges.

Since it was necessary to remove the wounded at night, use of the trenches was impossible. To carry a stretcher through a muddy, slippery trench would have been extremely difficult, even if traffic conditions had permitted. The result was that the stretcher-bearers' work had to be done in the open.

Only those who have carried wounded men through the inferno of a night at the front can realize the effect of such an experience on one's feelings. The sudden deafening explosions of guns near at hand, the crash of enemy shells landing near by, the whine of projectiles overhead, the uncertainty of footing, the confusing succession of blinding light and inky darkness and, through it all, the anxiety for the safety of the wounded man on

the stretcher—such are the usual daily experiences of a stretcher-bearer.

Ambulance drivers and orderlies rendered service of the highest order. In the blackness of the night, in rain and storm, without lights to guide them, often exposed to shell fire and always subject to great hardship, these men worked with a fidelity and courage for which no praise is too high. No less efficient, in their appointed duties, were the truck drivers and orderlies and the men of the horse transport, whose enthusiasm and unselfishness made possible the high standard maintained by their branches of the sanitary train.

Officers and men of the ambulance section by their speedy and fearless evacuation of the wounded under the most trying circumstances contributed immeasurably to the saving of lives and the conservation of the division's fighting efficiency. Not once during the active service of the train did an ambulance go out of commission through accident or carelessness. On one occasion an ambulance of Army Ambulance Section 600 slid off an embankment at night, rolled over and landed bottom-side up. The ambulance was not carrying wounded, and the three occupants were unhurt. Scrambling to their feet, they sought until they found a group of German prisoners marching to the rear. Commandeering the party, they soon had the ambulance in service again. On many occasions ambulances were pierced by shrapnel, but no patient ever was injured.

The noncommissioned officers, whose efficiency determines the worth of every military organization, constituted the pillars of the sanitary train, and the splendid record made by the train is due in large measure to their loyalty and unfailing gallantry. The cooks and clerks also functioned as a most important part of the military machine. While their duties ordinarily were



THE SAUER RIVER AT ECHTERNACH



of a routine nature, they displayed at all times high courage and steadfast resolution, which usually went unnoticed and unrewarded.

There was little rest for members of the sanitary train. Men at the immediate front had chances of recuperation after an attack, but for the men in the ambulance companies and the field hospitals the gaining of an objective meant little. The stream of wounded, friend and foe alike, was unending.

Deadening and unromantic as was the task of caring for this endless stream of human wreckage—the wastage of war—there came a wonderful inspiration, as the days passed, from the wounded men, many mangled and dying, who never complained except against the fate that made it impossible for them to return to the line. The men of the sanitary train were able to see and appreciate as could no one else the awfulness of modern war and its terrible cost in human life and suffering. And they were powerless to retaliate against the enemy for the losses that he was inflicting. They could only give their strength and, as was often the case, their blood, to lessen the anguish that was all about them.

For particularly faithful and meritorious service Majors Clancy, Gay, Rogers and McKinley were recommended for promotion to lieutenant colonels. Major Roger's promotion was announced at Brest, but the early return of the train to the United States ended the hope that the other officers would receive their deserved advancement before A. E. F. jurisdiction ceased.

The train was mustered out on June 9 and 10, 1919, having served nearly two years. Some of its members had made the supreme sacrifice and lay buried on the battlefields of France—on the Somme or at Verdun—some had been laid to rest in southern France and some in Luxemburg. Others were crippled for life. But all who survived the Great Adventure returned to civil life proudly conscious of having served their country in a time of need, and glad that the opportunity had been given them to make a payment on their debt of citizenship.



THE LAST TRAIN FROM ECHTERNACH TO BREST!

## THE STRETCHER BEARERS

BY LIEUTENANT FRANK C. TILLSON

Formerly Sergeant of Ambulance Company 132

While they're passin' round these Croix de Guerres an' D. S. C.'s and such,  
 There's a guy I'd like to recommend—he isn't mentioned much.  
 His job is nothin' fancy, an' he doesn't get much fame,  
 He is just a stretcher bearer, but, believe me, Bo, he's game.  
 (Who am I? Why, just a doughboy. Perhaps you know my rep.  
 An' I used to kid the Pill Brigade fer gettin' out of step,  
 But since we've had this war of ours, I've seen what they can do,  
 And perhaps this little story may explain my change of view.)

\* \* \* \* \*

I was lyin' there one mornin' with my nose jammed in the dirt,  
 While the bullets all around me, made the tiny dust clouds spurt;  
 Just a-wishin' I was thinner, an' longin' to be home,  
 Or any place away from there, from Mexico to Nome.  
 My pal was lyin' wounded, up a hundred yards ahead,  
 An' I knew we couldn't reach him, so I gave him up for dead.  
 Then two stretcher bearers started, an' I figgered they was gone,  
 But they never hesitated—just went on, and on, and on.  
 They just sort o' hunched their shoulders, like it was a shower of rain,  
 An' they went out to my buddy—an' they brought him back again.

It's not so hard to face the Boche and let him shoot at you,  
 When you've got an automatic an' can do some shootin' too;  
 But those two boys went marching out, without a single chance,  
 Except to push up daisies in some sunny field of France.  
 They saw their job and did it without any fuss or talk;  
 Just as calmly and serenely as you'd start out for a walk.  
 Believe me, that takes courage, and I'll hand it to them, then:  
 You may call them "non-combatants" but they are soldiers and they're Men.



A CAMOUFLAGED LANE NEAR MONTZEVILLE

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

*Captain*

Stephen J. H. Reed

*Lieutenant*

Leslie Phillips

*Corporal*

Harold G. Magraff

*Cook*

Arthur B. Oldstrom

*Wagoner*

Knut Nordstrom

*Privates, First Class*

Alfred S. Brabant

Howard Snyder

Murdo H. Stuart

*Privates*

Athel Cummings

Peter P. Mischevsky

Ralph Weaver



CORPORAL EUGENE MCINTYRE

## DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY OFFICERS OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

*Corporal*

Eugene McIntyre. Distinguished Service Cross.

In action near Hill 281, on October 3, 1918. Corporal McIntyre was severely wounded by the explosion of an enemy shell in the dressing station used by Ambulance Company 130. He remained on duty, and assisted in caring for the wounded until he fainted from loss of blood.

## OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN WHO WERE CITED FOR GALLANTRY BY GENERAL BELL

† Received citation also from General Pershing.

*Colonel*

† Harry D. Orr

*Lieutenant Colonels*

George C. Amerson

Daniel W. Rogers

*Majors*

Eugene G. Clancy

† Frederick O. Frederickson

James J. McKinley

Charles Schott

*Captains*

Benedict Aron

Joseph E. Acker

Phillip M. Bedessem

George C. Biondi

Walter L. Blomgren

Wm. O. Bradley

Isaac F. Clark

James T. Degan

Fred E. Earel

Hubert J. Eckwald

Wm. Gramley

Jessie T. Grayston

Myron Hanna

Arthur R. Hansen

John E. Heslin

Milton O. Houghton

Arthur E. Inglesh

Harry L. James

Daniel W. Jeffries

Henry C. Johannes

Louis J. Johnston

James W. Kellogg

John F. Kelly

Charles S. Kubik

Leland S. Light

Melbourne Mabey

Warren E. MacGregor

Henry O. Patrick

Oswald F. Schiffl

Jason N. Smith

Donald I. Stanton

James G. Stewart

Trent Stout

Herbert W. Strass  
Francis I. Stuart  
Charles A. Thomas  
Wm. J. F. Thompson  
Claude Weldy  
Burton A. Weston

*First Lieutenant*

Thomas J. Reilly

*Chaplain*

Arthur L. Girard

*Sergeants, First Class*

Allan P. Born  
Joseph F. Canavan  
Arthur H. Exner  
Paul C. Gerding  
Wm. A. Goldschmidt  
Barnett Harris  
Irwin M. Jacobs  
Antony E. Kozakiewicz  
Oscar W. Lundberg  
William Tornow  
Samuel J. Vehon  
Paul H. Wolfgang

*Sergeants*

Charles A. Badouine  
Herman H. Baum  
Abe Cohn  
Jay H. Crawford  
Edward Crispe  
Robert W. Dahlen  
David R. Davies  
Joseph J. Dubsky  
John P. Goodwin  
Edward R. Hammond  
Robert E. B. Hemingway  
Douglas E. Jackson  
Robert A. Jackson  
Arthur A. Johnson  
Fred Kahn  
William H. Matthew  
James E. O'Mally  
Edward S. Pettes  
Phil. A. Sandblom  
Israel Sanders  
John W. Schaeffle  
Harvey R. Seif  
Paul A. Stoerp  
Samuel Strauss  
Ray W. Summe  
Alvin Thurston  
Roman J. Tomaszewski

*Corporals*

Jack Becker  
Walter C. Carlson  
Jeremiah Dougherty  
Leonard F. Hayes

Thomas J. Regan  
Edward J. Smith  
Percy L. Williams

*Wagoners*

Kenneth H. Anderson  
Joseph J. Benner  
Renus Cargo  
Clarence W. Christian  
Alexander Davison  
Anthony J. Freudinger  
Fred B. Glennon  
John Hagan  
Harold R. Higgins  
Stewart W. Hughest  
Harry H. Hulbert  
Elmer A. Johnson  
Horace Lindheimer  
† James J. Lott  
Wm. Luthin  
Max G. Mayrer  
Clarence A. Oehring  
Eugene J. O'Hagan  
Dorian J. Raudenbush  
Harry Rosenweig  
Wm. I. Sartain  
Otto W. Simpson  
Wm. M. Stevenson  
Ralph D. Stone  
Wm. F. Stuart  
Arthur C. Wolfe

*Farrier*

Arthur E. Woehlke

*Mechanics*

Clifford I. Corwin  
Russel A. Potts  
Harold J. Schubert

*Cooks*

George W. Bridges  
Clarence J. Kee  
Frank Kratchnik

*Privates, First Class*

Louis F. Cody  
Stanley F. de Latour  
Veo M. Douglas  
Walter L. Ghislin  
Otto H. Gose  
Harry C. Kossakowski  
Frank Larnier  
William H. McDill  
Daniel O. Manix  
Charles Mueller  
Thomas J. Mulvey  
George C. Mynchenberg  
Lester J. New  
Francis P. Quinn  
Wm. J. Ritter  
Samuel J. Rosenstein



OFFICERS OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

Top row: Lieutenant Colonel Daniel W. Rogers, Majors Eugene G. Clancy and W. S. Cleland.

Second row: Majors John M. Evey, Frederick O. Frederickson, Robert J. Gay.

Third row: Majors James J. McKinley, Charles Schott, William J. Swift.

Jerome Schuster  
Harry Silver  
George J. Wagner  
John L. Written

*Privates*

William Barnwell  
Edwin C. Bersten

Vere L. Fennerty  
Harold L. McDaniel  
Leslie C. McGinnis  
Ralph D. Martin  
Wm. P. Murphy  
Wm. L. Richmond  
Olaf Edgar Wold

## ROSTER OF OFFICERS 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

\* Officers marked thus were properly members of the Division Medical Department, but are listed here because of their close coöperation in the work of the Sanitary Train.

*Colonel*

Harry D. Orr

*Lieutenant Colonels*

George C. Amerson  
Daniel W. Rogers

*Majors*

\* G. M. Blech (Asst. Division Surgeon)  
Eugene G. Clancy  
W. S. Cleland  
John M. Evey, D. D. S.  
\* Henry A. Fischer (Division Urologist)  
Frederick O. Frederickson  
Robert J. Gay  
William M. Gay (Division Tuberculosis Specialist)  
James J. McKinley  
\* Thomas J. Riach (Division Psychiatrist)  
Wm. C. Roller  
Charles Schott  
Wm. J. Swift

*Captains*

\* Joseph E. Acker (Mobile Laboratory)  
Benedict Aron  
Philip M. Bedessem  
George C. Biondi  
W. L. Blomgren

Wm. O. Bradley

Isaac F. Clark

James T. Degan

Fred E. Earel

Hubert J. Eckwall

\* Wm. S. Ehrich (Division Urologist)

Maurice F. Geehan

Arthur L. Girard (Chaplain)

Wm. Gramley

Jesse T. Grayston

Myron Hanna

Arthur R. Hansen

John E. Heslin

Milton O. Houghton

Arthur E. Inglesh

Harry L. James

Daniel W. Jeffries

Henry C. Johannes

George F. Johnson

Louis C. Johnston

\* James W. Kellogg (Mobile Laboratory)

John F. Kelly

Charles S. Kubik

Leland S. Light

Otto F. Lohman

Warren E. MacGregor, D. D. S.

Melbourne Mabee

Patrick F. O'Farrell

Henry C. Patrick



A GROUP OF FIELD HOSPITALS AT BETHINCOURT



## CAPTAINS OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

Top row: Joseph E. Acker, Benedict Aron, Philip M. Bedessem, W. L. Blomgren.  
 Second row: Isaac F. Clark, James T. Degan, Fred E. Earel, Hubert J. Eckwall.  
 Third row: William S. Ehrich, Arthur L. Girard, William Gramley, Myron Hanna.  
 Bottom row: Arthur R. Hansen, John E. Heslin, Milton O. Houghton, Arthur E. Inglosh.



## CAPTAINS OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

Top row: Harry L. James, Daniel W. Jeffries, Henry C. Johannes, George F. Johnston.

Second row: Louis C. Johnston, James W. Kellogg, John F. Kelly, Charles S. Kubik.

Third row: Melbourne Mabee, Warren E. MacGregor, Henry C. Patrick, Leslie Phillips.

Bottom row: Fritz A. Pierson, Oswald F. Schiffli, Leon Seidler, Jason N. Smith.



Leslie Phillips (deceased)  
 Fritz A. Pierson, D. D. S.  
 Roscoe Pratt  
 Stephen J. H. Reed (deceased)  
 Oswald F. Schiffli  
 \* Leon Seidler (Division Urologist)  
 Jason N. Smith  
 Donald I. Stanton  
 James G. Stewart  
 Trent Stout

Herbert W. Strass  
 Francis I. Stuart  
 Charles A. Thomas  
 Wm. J. F. Thompson  
 Claude Weldy  
 Burton R. Weston

*Lieutenants*

Grover A. Beckett  
 John England

R. B. Kepner  
 George U. Lipschulch  
 Wm. D. McGraner  
 John Martin  
 Ivan B. Pippin  
 Thomas J. Reilly  
 Wm. H. Remer  
 Morris Siegel  
 Francis Wells  
 Norman Zolla



SOME OFFICERS OF THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

Top row: Captains Donald O. Stanton, James G. Stewart, Trent Stout, Charles A. Thomas.  
 Second row: Captains William J. F. Thompson and Claude Weldy, Lieutenant R. B. Kepner.  
 Third row: Lieutenants Ivan B. Pippin, Thomas J. Reilly, William H. Remer, Morris Siegel.



COMPANY D IN FRONT OF ITS HEADQUARTERS AT MERSCH

## The 108th Supply Train

CAPTAIN HOWARD D. MACDONALD, EDITOR



THE 108th Supply Train, destined to play an important part in the triumphant operations of the Thirty-third Division overseas, was organized at Camp Logan soon after the division was assembled for training. Six companies of the old Seventh Infantry, Illinois National Guard, were designated to form the train. Companies G, H, I, K, L and M, constituting one-half of the second battalion and all of the third battalion of the Seventh, became, in the supply train, respectively, Companies A, B, C, D, E, and F.

At the time of its formation, Major J. E. Brady, formerly a battalion commander of the Seventh Illinois, was placed in command

of the new unit. He resigned after a brief period of service, and was succeeded by Major Frederick S. Haines. Major Haines' staff consisted of First Lieutenant Marcus E. Sperry, adjutant; First Lieutenant Axel Swenson, surgeon; and First Lieutenant Howard F. Hoffmaster, supply officer. The officers of the line at that time were:

Company A—Captain Albert M. Witt, First Lieutenant William F. Clifford.

Company B—Captain Earl A. Westcott, First Lieutenant Arthur Westerfield.

Company C—Captain Adolph C. Tillman, First Lieutenant Charles E. Barber.



THE SEVENTH REGIMENT ARMORY

Company D—Captain Howard D. MacDonald, First Lieutenant Frank S. Galbreith.

Company E—Captain H. A. Sanders, First Lieutenant Andrew A. Cavanaugh.

Company F—Captain John A. Bechtel, First Lieutenant Barry Kingman.

The first duty assigned to the unit was the convoy of thirty automobile trucks from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to the division camp. After this the

train assisted the division quartermaster in handling the vast quantity of supplies required for a division of troops. At the same time the training went forward without a pause. The six companies, each with two officers and seventy-eight men, were equipped and trained as infantry.

Upon the departure of the division from Camp Logan, the supply train, leaving on May 12, 1918, closely followed the infantry regiments. It was sent to Camp Merritt, where, after a series of rigid inspections, it was fully equipped.

Early on the morning of May 21 the supply train, with full pack equipment, marched five miles over the hills of New Jersey to board ferry boats upon which it was conveyed to Hoboken. There it embarked upon the Leviathan, which put to sea on May 22.

On the last day of the voyage, with port almost in sight, the train companies shared with the 131st Infantry and the other troops on board, the experience of a sudden subsea attack. And while the Leviathan's eight 6-inch guns and five torpedo boat destroyers in the convoy were blazing away at a half visible fleet of enemy submarines the men of the supply train, who had gone to their compartments in response to the "call to quarters," coolly played at cards and dice until the battling transport rode unscathed into Brest harbor.

Memorial Day found the Leviathan safely anchored off Brest, and the next day the men of the supply train were lightered to the docks and set foot upon the soil of France. A five-mile hike brought the unit to Pontanezen barracks, a tented camp just outside the Napoleonic walls of the old French seaport.

A week in this camp and the supply train men marched back into Brest and boarded a French railway train. They were three days on the road

before the lagging train finally arrived at La Ferté-sur-Amance, a little town situated upon a high hill in the department Haute-Marne.

Here a long period of inactivity ensued, broken only by numerous hikes and drills. No motor trucks had been assigned to the unit, and, consequently, there was no regular work. Time hung heavy on the hands of the men; the inactivity was wearisome.

Nearly all the towns in the department were crowded with American troops. Although the men did not then realize it, a concentration of American troops in this district, preparatory to the organization of a strictly American sector of the front, was in progress, and there was nothing to be done by the troops already there until this was completed.

As Major Haines feared the inactivity might cause his men to "go stale," he sought employment for them, and succeeded in arranging for several of the companies to go to Havre, St. Nazaire, and other base ports to convoy auto trucks inland to Dijon and Langres. This was not activity enough, so Major Haines next went to the headquarters of the Services of Supply and obtained permission to proceed with his entire command to Bordeaux, a base port where the Motor Transport Corps maintained an assembling park for automobiles and motor trucks.

On July 15, the six companies of the 108th Supply Train, under a blazing sun, marched down the great hill from La Ferté-sur-Amance to the little railway station at its base. All were happy in spite of the intense heat in the knowledge that, at last, there was real work to be done.

The unit arrived in Bordeaux about midnight of July 18, and, after a wait of a few hours, proceeded to Camp Genicart, about five miles outside the city. In the great motor transport park there were hundreds of vehicles of all descriptions, and to the supply train was assigned the task of getting some of them in condition for active service.

Many of the mechanics of the unit were engaged, under Captain



THE WORK OF GERMAN PLANES  
The center block of Bar-le-Duc.



#### LA PORTE NEUVE INTO VERDUN

The "new gate," where the 108th Supply Train operated from the railhead supplying the Thirty-third Division.

Bechtel, in assembling trucks. Captain Westcott and Lieutenant Westcote, with Company B, were sent to Rochefort, where there was a smaller park. Captain Sanders, with Company E, went to La Pallice. Lieutenant Sperry was transferred to Company E at this time, and Lieutenant Clifford succeeded him as adjutant. Captain Tillman, with Company C, and Captain Witt, with Company A, were put in charge of convoys of new trucks, which they drove to the motor parks in the advance section, S. O. S. Captain MacDonald and Lieutenant

Galbreith, with Company D, took two convoys of thirty-three trucks to Dijon in Côte d'Or. Others also were employed in conveying or assembling motor trucks.

The decision having been reached about the middle of August to concentrate the units of the Thirty-third Division at Tronville-en-Barrois (in the Meuse department), all companies of the supply train were assembled at Dijon. The supply train's trucks already were at Tronville, but there were ninety motorcycles at Dijon to be delivered to the division. Captain MacDonald, who was designated to command the convoy, selected 120 riders for this work and within three days had completed the task. The other units of the train proceeded by railroad.

Already the division was on the move, and it was necessary for the supply train to go forward with its convoys despite the fact that the trucks assigned to it were old and in need of many repairs. Major Haines detailed Captain MacDonald to command the trucks, numbering more than 100, which were in serviceable condition. These trucks, loaded with supplies and divided into six convoys, got under way on September 6. Major Haines and Captain Bechtel remained behind, with a force of men to continue repair work on the remaining trucks.

The six convoys started out through Bar-le-Duc, and drove all night in a drizzling rain. They were to deliver their cargoes and concentrate at Camp du Bois de Placey, but the roads into this wood were found impassable, so

they proceeded to Camp du Bois St. Pierre. Before daylight they had gained the cover of the woods and were safe from enemy observation.

For a week the supply train operated from this camp, transporting rations, forage and other supplies from the railway at Vadelaincourt to the various units of the division, which were holding the Fromeréville sector of the line, northwest of Verdun. On September 12 Companies E and F were moved to Blercourt, where division headquarters had been established. There Major Haines rejoined his command. The remaining four companies were dispatched to Souhesme-la Grande and Souhesme-la Petite, under command of Captain MacDonald.

From these points the supply train companies operated for three days with only enemy aviators to worry them. All six companies then were moved to Frana farm, north of Nixeville, and division headquarters were moved up to Fromeréville. Ration and ammunition dumps were established near each regiment in the line, and every night, under cover of darkness, these were replenished by small convoys of trucks. The drivers had to feel their way very carefully, and it was necessary for the men to unload their trucks and get back to cover before daylight should expose them to heavy artillery fire. Enemy airplanes added to the difficulties of the supply train by dropping bombs nightly.

After a week in this location Major Haines and Captain MacDonald made a reconnaissance of the ruined town of Thierville, north of Verdun.



IN THIERVILLE

Where the supply train maintained headquarters during the first thirty days of the Argonne offensive.



HEADQUARTERS AT THIERVILLE

was under heavy shelling every day. The dugouts previously used by the French when they occupied Thierville were found highly serviceable during the bombardments and frequent airplane attacks.

Every night the men of the supply train ran cargoes of supplies forward to the advanced ration and ammunition dumps, driving through utter darkness over shell torn roads congested with infantry, wagon trains, and artillery going and coming. Batteries of artillery fired from each side of the road. Often the conditions were so bad that a single trip of two or three miles to the advanced dumps and return kept the trucks on the road from dark until daylight. The trucks carried or pulled whatever was required—ammunition or food, or artillery that had to be dragged into firing position.

Within a few hours after the 131st Infantry had gone over the top at Dead Man's Hill on September 26, Captain MacDonald and Lieutenant Cavanaugh, with convoys of mixed commands, unloaded supplies at Chattancourt, and established ration dumps beyond Cumières and toward Forges, all in territory that had been occupied by the enemy until a few hours before. It was between Cumières and Forges that Corporal Andrew Kuri of Company C and Private Peter K. Henn of Company B were killed. The shell which killed Corporal Kuri wounded sev-



IN THE CENTER OF THIERVILLE

The old fountain near the church, where the supply train made up its convoys by day and emerged at night.

Their investigation resulted in the moving of the train into that town on September 22. Four French railway guns, later replaced by three American 14-inch naval guns, were mounted on the tracks about a hundred yards behind the new camp. These drew the enemy's artillery fire, and for the next thirty days the supply train

eral others of the same convoy. On another occasion shell fragments pierced the dash and hood of a truck driven by Sergeant McGarry and Private Guarano of Company D.

All four of the infantry regiments which the 108th Supply Train was serving were moving forward. As the offensive progressed and the second drive was started on October 9 it became necessary to advance the supply dumps. The next general dump of importance was established across the Meuse River, at Consenvoye, where the transport wagons of the combatant infantry regiments received their supplies from the trucks of the supply train.

For forty-six days the Thirty-third Division had been continuously in the battle line. Now, however, it appeared a rest was in prospect. On



THE SITE OF VAUX

Over ground like this, the supply train carried supplies to the front and wounded men to the rear.

October 22 the division started on a march, supposedly to a rest camp, with the supply train transporting the equipment. The supposition turned out to be a delusion; the four-day march brought the division to another battle area, on the Troyon-Chaillon sector of the Woëvre front, where the Thirty-third Division became a part of the American Second Army. After occupying several temporary camps the supply train established itself at Villers-sur-Meuse. Operating from that place, the train hauled munitions and supplies from the railhead at Rattantout to the various units of the division. This it continued to do until the armistice put an end to the fighting.

Major Haines, who had been acting as division motor transport officer, as well as commander of the supply train, was transferred to the Third Army headquarters just before the armistice. Captain Bechtel was made a major





A FACTORY IN CHATTANCOURT

On into Germany by way of Luxemburg was the 108th Supply Train's next campaign, a peaceful one but not without a thrill as an invasion of the long guarded region of the Rhine. On December 8 the entire division began moving forward. It hiked through the department Meurthe-et-Moselle, through Lorraine and into southern Luxemburg, the supply train transporting the divisional supplies. The division's headquarters were established in Diekirch, with all the units of the division settled in twons clustering around it. The duty of the supply train was to transport supplies for all these units from the railhead.

Then for the advance into Germany the train made a quick change of armies. On December 12 it was transferred from the Second Army to the Seventh Corps of the Third Army and moved some of the units of that corps across the border into Germany but soon re-

and placed in command of the train. He was assigned immediately to division headquarters as division motor transport officer, and Captain MacDonald was put in command of the train, being recommended at the same time for a majority. This recommendation, however, was disapproved by the War Department, which ruled that no promotions would be made on recommendations received after the armistice began. After this decision Major William Hendrie, who had been attached to a machine gun battalion of the Eighty-fifth Division, was transferred and placed in command of the supply train. He retained command until the muster-out.



COMPANY C AT MESS, IN WEIMESKIRCH

turned them to Luxemburg to act as part of the Army of Occupation there.

In January, 1919, Company D and parts of other companies, with Lieutenant Galbreith in command, reported to the 104th Pioneer Infantry to assist in salvage work in the Conflans area. About two weeks later Captain MacDonald was ordered to Buzy and assumed command of the supply train detachment which operated there for a month and then transferred its headquarters to Villers-sous-Pareid, also in the Conflans area. During this time the other companies of the train remained in Mersch.

When preparations for withdrawal were begun the detachment in the Conflans area was relieved by another supply train, to which the trucks were



A 120-HORSE POWER HOLT TRACTOR DRAWING 8-INCH HOWITZERS

In charge of a detachment of the Supply Train, on the road near Toul.

transferred, and the detachment returned to Mersch. Captain Tillman was transferred to the Motor Transport Corps and Captain MacDonald from Company D to Company C. As the secretary of war had by this time lifted the ban on promotions, Lieutenant Galbreith received a captaincy and was placed in command of Company D. Lieutenant Kingman also was promoted and put in command of Company F, Captain Westcott was transferred to the Motor Transport Corps, and First Lieutenant Hugh Durkin, from the Fifth Division, was assigned to command Company B. Lieutenant Hoffmaster was transferred to the Fifth Division, Lieutenant Westerfield was sent to a hospital and then home, Lieutenants Sperry and Clifford were transferred to the A. E. F. Schools and Lieutenant Arthur H. Bamforth, of the 131st Infantry, was appointed adjutant of the train.



CAPTAIN H. D. MacDONALD

Finally, homeward bound, the 108th Supply Train was sent to Brest and on May 16 sailed for the United States. Through a coincidence the unit returned upon the Leviathan, the same huge vessel that carried it to France and, furthermore, it landed at the port from which it had sailed one year before to the day. It had left Hoboken on May 22, 1918, and landed there on its return May 22, 1919. The train proceeded to Camp Mills, where it was held for a few weeks before its departure for Camp Grant for demobilization, which came in June.

Thus the existence of the 108th Supply Train came to an end. Let Major General George Bell, Jr., commander of the Thirty-third Division, write its epitaph. In the brief history of the division, printed in Luxemburg, under the direction of General Bell, is this paragraph:

"To the officers and men, and especially to the truck drivers, of the 108th Supply Train, the highest possible credit is due. In the blackness of the night, amid rain and storm, without lights to guide their way, often under shell fire of the heaviest sort and subjected to hardships untold, these men performed their difficult tasks with a fidelity, zeal and courage for which no praise is too high."



NARROW-GAUGE RAILROAD IN DIEKIRCH

Trucks of the Supply Train in the background.



#### A GROUP OF OFFICERS AT MERSCH

Left to right: Lieutenant Bamforth, Captain Witt, Captain Irwin, Captain Melville, Major Hendrie, Captain Westcott, Lieutenant Cavanaugh, Captain Sanders, Captain Cleland, Captain Swenson, Captain Kennedy, Lieutenant Merriman, Captain Kingman, Lieutenant Bowman.

#### MEN OF THE 108TH SUPPLY TRAIN WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR DIED OF DISEASE OVERSEAS

##### *Corporal*

Walter J. Geracy

##### *Private, First Class*

Peter K. Henn

##### *Privates*

Roger L. Ely

Andrew Kuri

#### OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 108TH SUPPLY TRAIN WHO WERE CITED FOR BRAVERY BY GENERAL PERSHING AND GENERAL BELL

† Received citations both from General Bell and General Pershing.

##### *Corporals*

James Delbeto

Clarence Hall

† Edward Zahner

##### *Private*

Carl Hallberg

#### ROSTER OF OFFICERS 108TH SUPPLY TRAIN BEFORE ARMISTICE

##### *Major*

Frederick S. Haines

##### *Captains*

John A. Bechtel (later Major)

Frank S. Galbreith

H. L. Kennedy, D. C.

H. D. MacDonald

H. A. Sanders

Alex Swenson, M. C.

Adolph C. Tillman

Earl B. Westcott

Albert M. Witt

##### *First Lieutenants*

Charles E. Barber

A. A. Cavanaugh

Wm. E. Clifford

Howard F. Hoffmaster  
Barry Kingman (later Captain)

Marcus E. Sperry  
Arthur Westerfield

OFFICERS ASSIGNED AFTER ARMISTICE

*Major*  
William Hendrie

*First Lieutenants*  
Arthur H. Bamforth (later Captain)  
Hugh Durkin



SOME OFFICERS OF THE 108TH SUPPLY TRAIN  
Left to right: Captain Galbreith, Lieutenants Cavanaugh, Durkin and Hoffmaster.



ONE OF THOSE RARE QUIET MOMENTS IN FRANCE

## The Auxiliaries of the Thirty-third Division



**A**MONG the important factors in keeping up the morale of the troops of the Thirty-third Division was the work of the various home auxiliaries, composed chiefly of relatives of the officers and men of the division. Every regiment, every train, almost every company and battery had an organization of home folk hard at work providing comforts for shipment to Europe, caring for the sick and wounded, and making sure that the home-coming festivities would be such as to remain always a pleasant memory. Organizations were headed by energetic men and women who, in many cases, devoted their entire time in relief work. Permanent headquarters were maintained by some of the auxiliaries, with work rooms where the members could find materials and equip-

ment for knitting and other handiwork.

A number of the societies grew out of auxiliaries that had been founded, chiefly for social purposes, during the years when the units were part of the Illinois National Guard. Most of the organizations, however, were formed after the troops had been for some weeks or months in camp, when it became apparent that coöperation was essential to effective work in their behalf.

The activities of the auxiliaries were of wide scope. They embraced card parties, dances and more pretentious entertainments given with a view to

raising money; the publication of papers containing news of home, which were forwarded to the trenches; and, of course, knitting, candy making and other work of that character. The success of their efforts was so pronounced that a number of the auxiliaries continued in existence after the return of the soldiers, and made plans for continued activity for the purpose of keeping alive war-time associations.

### THE 131ST INFANTRY

Auxiliaries of the units comprising the 131st Infantry, formerly the First Infantry, Illinois National Guard, worked independently during the war, though in close touch with each other. This method proved effective while the troops were away from home, inasmuch as it guaranteed attention to each company of the regiment. When plans began to take form, however, for the return and demobilization of the troops, it was recognized that a regimental organization was necessary to make arrangements for a suitable welcome. Such an organization was speedily effected, built on the Veteran Corps, an auxiliary society that had been in existence for many years, and composed of former members of the "Dandy First." Governor Frank O. Lowden, formerly a lieutenant colonel in the regiment, was made president of the Welcome Home Committee. Vice presidents included John J. Mitchell, Charles L. Hutchinson, Ferdinand W. Peck, Alexander H. Revell, Thomas E. Wilson, R. H. Hunter, C. B. Cone, William R. Dawes, C. S. Castle, Arthur Heurtley and Edwy Logan Reeves. The treasurer was Henry R. Kent.

Most of the actual responsibility and labor of perfecting plans for the welcome fell, however, on the committee on arrangements, which was composed of Major M. L. C. Funkhouser as chairman, and Lieutenant Fred R. Sargent as secretary. Major Funkhouser and Lieutenant Sargent, both members of the Veteran Corps, looked after all general plans and all details of the formal welcome. Through their efforts a grand stand was provided on Michigan Avenue, from which relatives of the soldiers were able to view the parade of the 131st on its return to Chicago. At the close of the parade the entertainment of the several units of the regiment was undertaken by the various auxiliaries. The officers of these were as follows:

Headquarters Company—William N. Brown, president; Mrs. O. Kirchhoffer, vice-president; Miss Gertrude Pfeifer, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Shantz, treasurer.

Medical Detachment—Captain C. L. Daniels, president; Mrs. Robert Hopps, vice-president; Mrs. George C. Amerson, secretary-treasurer.

Machine Gun Company—John E. Hayes, president; Mrs. Jessie E. Widman, vice-president; William E. Herbold, treasurer; Nathaniel S. Clark, secretary.

Supply Company—David W. Carney, president; Mrs. M. J. Halpin, first vice-president; Mrs. F. H. Alt, second vice-president; Mrs. Charles Endriss,

recording secretary; Mr. H. A. Cohrs, financial secretary; Mrs. M. A. Crosby, treasurer; Mrs. Lula Leiser, assistant treasurer.

Company A—William H. Schmidt, president; Lieutenant Aloysius J. Walsh, vice-president; J. Harry Lucas, treasurer; Mrs. Adolph J. Borgmeier, secretary.

Company B—Dr. H. McClellan Hess, president; Elmer Kuntz, vice-president; Miss Gussie Welbourne, secretary; Harold Rudd, treasurer.

Company C—Mrs. A. Clermont, president; Miss M. E. Duffy, secretary.

Company D—George F. Mundt, president; Mrs. Florence Peltes, vice-president; Mrs. Nellie Wang, secretary; Mrs. S. J. Lloyd, treasurer.

Company E—Phillip J. McKenna, president; Mrs. F. J. Steinbach, vice-president; W. J. Anderson, treasurer; G. E. Wolf, secretary. (These officers were elected upon the reorganization of the auxiliary after the death of F. J. Steinbach, the first president. Other officers of the original organization were: Mrs. J. W. Luke, vice-president; Miss Elvira Blume, treasurer, and Irving W. Luke, secretary.)

Company F—Mrs. Bertha Kater, president; Mrs. Jennie Baker, vice-president; Grace E. Koepke, secretary; W. C. Koepke, treasurer.

Company G—Frank Guy, president; Miss Estelle Schoenacker, vice-president; Miss Mattie L. Reusnow, secretary; Robert D. Hopps, treasurer.

Company H—Mrs. G. M. Layne, chairman; L. C. Mann, vice-chairman; Miss Esther Walker, secretary; Mrs. I. M. Sipe, treasurer.

Company I—Mrs. Melva Gartin Funk, president; Judge Irwin R. Hazen, chairman; Eugene Bonnist, secretary; Miss Helen Brownell, assistant secretary.

Company K—Mrs. C. R. Percival, president; William Thorne, Sr., vice-president; Mrs. L. L. Brown, recording secretary; Mrs. Nannie C. Mitchell, corresponding secretary.

Company L—E. R. Runyan, president; Mrs. W. Magner, vice-president; James N. Gibson, secretary; Mrs. F. E. Rusdorf, treasurer.

### THE 132ND INFANTRY

Colonel J. J. Garrity, former commanding officer of the Second Infantry, Illinois National Guard, and later general superintendent of police of Chicago, was president of the auxiliary for the 132nd Infantry, the successor to the old Second. Vice-presidents serving under him were Captain Lewis H. Simpson, Colonel William N. Pelouze,



FOR THE MEN OF THE 132ND  
One of these bronze plaques was presented to  
each member of the regiment.



Mrs. H. J. King, and Mrs. Katherine Cutler. Honorary vice-presidents were General Harris A. Wheeler, Colonel Florenz Ziegfeld, Colonel Louis S. Judd, Colonel G. M. Moulton and Colonel James E. Stuart. Colonel Arthur D. Rehm was secretary, F. J. Marsh assistant secretary, Major J. W. McConnell, treasurer, and Colonel John Bauder, marshal.

The work of this organization was noteworthy. Financial relief was provided for members of the regiment who, having been left in the states because of physical disability for overseas service, later were invalided home. Members of the auxiliary visited soldiers of the regiment who were in Chicago hospitals, and a burial and firing squad was provided for members of the regiment who were buried in Chicago. One of the most pretentious entertainments undertaken by any relief society was the victory carnival which the 132nd Auxiliary gave in the Second Regiment Armory. Profits from the carnival amounted to \$5,000, which was spent for the benefit of the soldiers.

Members of the auxiliary gathered on Michigan Avenue to view the parade of the 132nd following its return to Chicago. Later, after demobilization, a "welcome home" entertainment and ball was given at the Second Regiment Armory. At that time a bronze plaque, bearing the names of the engagements in which the regiment participated, was presented to each soldier.

The White Star Auxiliary, successor to the United Friends, of Spanish-American war days, was an active unit of the general auxiliary. Mrs. John Rose was president of that organization during the war, and later was succeeded by Mrs. William E. Hoinville. Other officers were: Mrs. Harry J. King, secretary; Mrs. Alice M. Gribben, treasurer; Mrs. John Bauder, senior vice-president; Mrs. P. O'Hagan, junior vice-president; Mrs. G. N. Christie, chaplain; Mrs. Alice McGovern, conductor; Mrs. T. J. Cummings, assistant conductor; Mrs. Martha Van Drak, guard; Mrs. Annie Miller, assistant guard; Mrs. Katherine Cutler, instructor; Mrs. Adah L. Evans, historian, and Miss Pearle Evans, musician.

Officers of the various company organizations were as follows:

Headquarters Company—Col. Arthur D. Rehm, chairman; Mrs. A. E. Harper, secretary; F. A. Jamieson, financial secretary.

Supply Company—Mrs. A. Horne, chairman; W. L. Gronow, secretary; W. J. Hayden, financial secretary.

Machine Gun Company—Mrs. Margaret O'Hagan, chairman; Mrs. L. Dutch, secretary.

Medical Detachment—Major J. M. Lavin, chairman; Mrs. Jarred Rosenthal, vice chairman; Mrs. A. S. Colver, secretary; R. E. VanDewart, financial secretary.

Company A—Captain Frank U. Adams, chairman; Mrs. G. N. Miller, secretary; Mrs. Retta Clinch, financial secretary.

Company B—Captain Theodore W. David, chairman; Mrs. Thomas Hudson, vice chairman; Edward Lowy, secretary; Mrs. Frank F. Gloy, financial secretary.

Company C—Captain A. F. Seebel, chairman; Mrs. F. E. Coyne, vice

chairman; Lorento N. Lunn, secretary; Mrs. Norman B. Wood, financial secretary.

Company D—Mrs. G. S. Thompson, chairman; Lieutenant James E. Polka, secretary; Lieutenant Charles L. Green, financial secretary.

Company E—E. R. Clark, chairman; Miss Edith Scott, secretary; Miss Margaret Nelson, financial secretary.

Company F—Captain William E. Duddles, chairman; Joseph E. Maloney, vice chairman; William P. Slagle, secretary; John P. McGrath, financial secretary.

Company G—Major J. E. Brady, chairman; Mrs. Bertha Waschbusch, secretary.

Company H—William Walsh, chairman; Mrs. F. Hartman, secretary.

Company I—Captain F. Nussbaumer, chairman; Miss Ida Wolcoff, secretary; Mrs. Adelaide Brumfield, financial secretary.

Company K—J. H. Thom, chairman; Miss Helen Kautenberger, secretary; A. R. Maringo, financial secretary.

Company L—Colonel Anton F. Lorenzen, chairman; Mrs. Thomas J. Cummings, vice chairman; Miss C. L. Higgins, secretary; Mrs. A. W. Lesley, financial secretary.

Company M—L. G. Berg, chairman; Thomas S. Kilbride, secretary.

### THE 129TH AND 130TH INFANTRY REGIMENTS

The 129th and 130th Infantry Regiments were made up of men from various parts of Illinois, so that it was impossible for their relatives to form as effective a relief society as was organized in behalf of units composed almost entirely of men from Chicago. Chicago relatives of members of these two regiments, however, banded together and did much work. Friends of the 130th were first to act. They formed the Chicago Auxiliary of the 130th and elected the following officers: J. S. Maloney, president; Mrs. J. A. Monaghan, vice-president; Miss Etta Lindskog, secretary; Mrs. William Guthrie, financial secretary, and Howard Baird, treasurer. Mr. Baird later resigned and was succeeded by J. A. Monaghan. After the first few meetings friends and relatives of members of the 129th Infantry, of whom there were comparatively few in Chicago, asked permission to work with the relief organization of the 130th. Permission was gladly granted, and, without a change of name, the organization put forth efforts in behalf of both regiments. The



IN RECOGNITION OF VAL-  
IANT SERVICE

society was active in plans for welcoming home the men of the division, and exerted its influence to obtain congressional action in favor of extra compensation for the soldiers. A banquet was given for the men of the two regiments after demobilization, and at the last meeting each soldier was presented with a silver medal, bearing an appropriate inscription and the insignia of the Thirty-third Division.

### THE 122ND FIELD ARTILLERY

The 122nd Field Artillery Auxiliary grew out of a smaller society formed to provide comforts for the officers and men of Battery E. The battery auxiliary, headed by Mrs. Harold P. Goodnow, began its work while the regiment was still in training at Camp Logan. The following year relatives of men enrolled in all units of the regiment were invited to join in an organization of broader scope. Mrs. Goodnow was made head of the new auxiliary. Assisting her in other official positions were: Mrs. A. R. Johnson, Mrs. George J. Hachmeister, Mrs. F. M. Richardson, Thomas R. Johnston, J. Sidney Baxter and J. W. Dunlap, vice-presidents; Mrs. John Fornacairi, treasurer; Miss Helen Crowe, recording secretary; Miss Catherine McHale, financial secretary, and Henry S. Stratford, historian. Miss Agnes Foreman, sister of Col. Milton J. Foreman, commanding officer of the regiment, was made honorary president. The work of the auxiliary during the war consisted chiefly in knitting garments for men of the regiment and in raising funds to provide for their entertainment on their return home. Members of the welfare committee visited the sick and wounded in Chicago hospitals after the demobilization of the regiment and cared for those who were in need of assistance. A fund of \$6,000 was raised and placed in trust, the proceeds to be used for the benefit of the members of the regiment. Dr. M. Z. Albro, Francis J. Houlihan, F. Stingle, William Yardley, E. G. Storms, P. A. Jenks, and J. W. Dunlap were named as trustees of this fund. Silver belt buckles, suitably engraved, were given to all members of the regiment and a silver loving cup was presented to Colonel Foreman.

### THE 123RD FIELD ARTILLERY

Friends of the 123rd Field Artillery worked together under the name of the 123rd Field Artillery Home Folks Association. This regiment came partly from Cook County and partly from other sections of the state. There was splendid coöperation, however, between separated groups of home folk in providing comforts for the men while they were abroad, and arranging a glorious welcome for them on their return. At the first meeting Mrs. E. P. Davis of Geneseo was elected president, and Dr. C. W. Coltrin of Chicago vice president. Other officers were: Mrs. R. W. Cavanaugh of Oak Park, second vice president; Miss Jennie Blazer, Aledo, third vice president; Mrs. Emilyn C. Allington, Freeport, fourth vice president; Mrs. W. T. Pierce,

Kewanee, fifth vice president; Miss Isabel Quinn, Oak Park, secretary, and T. F. Bohan, Oak Park, treasurer. Mrs. Davis was forced on account of illness to give up her duties as president shortly after her election, and the responsibilities of this office were assumed by Dr. Coltrin. Frequent meetings were held in Chicago and plans were made for the home-coming celebration. Cablegrams and other messages were sent to the men in France and a fund was raised and sent to the regiment as a Christmas present. Final honors were paid to the regiment at a home-coming dance and banquet held at the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, on the evening of June 21, 1919. A memorial was sent to the family of each man who died in the service.



**A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FOREMAN**  
Silver loving cup presented to him by the 122nd Field Artillery Auxiliary.

### THE 124TH FIELD ARTILLERY

The 124th Field Artillery Auxiliary was formed in Chicago after the armistice was signed to make arrangements for the homecoming of the regiment. Officers of the auxiliary were: Mrs. John W. Bready, president; Miss Mabel Moloney, secretary, and G. H. Bixby, treasurer. An enthusiastic reception was given the regiment on its return, and at a homecoming banquet a loving cup was presented to Colonel Horatio B. Hackett, the regimental commander.

### THE 108TH ENGINEERS

The 108th Engineers had two separate auxiliaries in Illinois, the Woman's Auxiliary to the 108th Engineers, and the Citizens Unit of the 108th Engineers. The latter organization was unique in that, while playing the part of helpful friends to the regiment as a whole and to individual members, no member of the unit had a relative in the regiment. The Citizens Unit was organized primarily as a patriotic society. At the outbreak of the war it opened six recruiting offices at its own expense, raised and equipped the engineer regiment, and turned it over to the government. It then decided to continue as a relief organization, and did much work during the war in finding positions for members of the families of those who were in service. A permanent office was maintained in Chicago, and, on the



FROM THE 124TH AUXILIARY  
To Colonel Hackett "in appreciation  
of his paternal interest in our boys."

demobilization of the regiment the organization established an employment bureau which found positions for a large number of the veterans. Club rooms were maintained for the benefit of the returned soldiers. The Citizens Unit was headed by the late Isham Randolph, a well known Chicago consulting engineer. Other officers were: Andrew R. Sheriff, first vice president; Walter S. Ross, secretary; John J. Arnold, secretary, and Miss Blanche M. McDonald, executive secretary.

The Woman's Auxiliary to the 108th Engineers was one of the first bodies of its kind in the field. It was organized in August, 1917. It had an initial membership of fifty, and the first officers were: Mrs. Charles Roth, president; Miss Clara Roe, vice president; Mrs. Elvira Leslie, secretary, and Mrs. E. J. Hall, treasurer. Following the armistice it was felt that the organiza-

tion should be enlarged to make "welcome home" plans, and a reorganization was effected. Officers were then elected as follows: Mrs. C. M. Leslie, president; Mrs. Alice Campbell, vice president; Mrs. William A. Peterson, secretary; Mrs. George B. Vernier, treasurer. At this stage of its activities the auxiliary accepted the invitation to combine its work with that of the Citizens Unit, and the two bodies together arranged for the homecoming celebration. The official welcome was given to the regiment at a dance in the Morrison Hotel, Hallowe'en night, 1919. At that time a loving cup was presented to Colonel Henry A. Allen, the regimental commander.

#### THE 108TH AMMUNITION TRAIN

The 108th Ammunition Train Auxiliary was organized shortly before the armistice. The following officers were elected: D. R. Twomey, president; E. J. Mooney and L. Summerfield, vice-presidents; J. J. Prendergast, treasurer; Miss M. L. Nicholas, fi-



A VIEW IN THE ENGINEERS' CLUBROOMS

financial secretary, and Miss M. A. Flanagan, recording secretary. An executive council was formed, consisting of one member representing each company in the train. These were: Company A, William Block; Company B, Mrs. J. J. Prendergast; Company C, C. A. Rourke; Company D, Mrs. Laura Pammeler; Company E, Miss M. Graham; Company F, Mrs. M. D. Mooney; Company G, Miss J. Colfer; Medical detachment, Mrs. A. Martin; Headquarters Motor Battalion, Mrs. S. N. Sorenson; Train Headquarters, F. Moran. The auxiliary met weekly during the winter, did much work for sick and wounded men who had been sent home, and raised funds which were spent in giving the ammunition train a royal welcome on its return.



THE CUP PRESENTED TO COLONEL ALLEN

### THE 108TH SANITARY TRAIN

The 108th Sanitary Train Welfare Association was organized in August, 1918. The following officers were elected: Mrs. William D. Washburn, president; Mrs. Nathan Herzog, first vice-president; Mrs. Herbert Clark, second vice-president; Miss Bessie L. Monohan, recording secretary; Mrs. William P. George, treasurer, and Mrs. F. P. Cleveland, corresponding secretary. The association, through its committees, kept in close touch with families of soldiers, giving aid to those who were in need. By the collection of nominal dues and by giving entertainments, money was raised for a banquet which was given the unit in June, 1919, on its return from France. For some time thereafter club rooms were maintained for the returned soldiers at 17 North Wabash Avenue.

### THE 108TH SUPPLY TRAIN

The 108th Supply Train Auxiliary was formed in the summer of 1918 for the purpose of looking after the interests of the men of the train and of their dependent relatives. Later the auxiliary raised a large sum to provide for a homecoming celebration. The president of the auxiliary, W. M. O'Keefe, went to New York to welcome the unit as it disembarked, and a

banquet was given for the men at the Hotel LaSalle on their arrival in Chicago. A cash bonus was sent to the men in France, who from illness or other causes were prevented from returning with the train. The officers, in addition to Mr. O'Keefe, were: C. M. Morey, first vice-president; Mrs. J. Cronin, second vice-president; Mrs. C. McDonald, third vice-president; Mrs. William Hoy, treasurer; Miss M. Costello, recording secretary, and W. H. Nash, financial secretary.

### THE 108TH FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION

The 108th Field Signal Battalion Auxiliary was organized in the spring of 1919 to arrange a fitting welcome for the unit on its return to Chicago. Entertainments given during May brought in funds which defrayed the cost of a banquet and dance given at the Morrison Hotel to the unit in June. The officers of the auxiliary were: Major Alvin H. McNeal, president; R. F. Foster, vice-president; Mrs. Charles A. Danz, treasurer, and Mrs. Esther Cullerton, secretary.

### THE 108TH TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY

The 108th Trench Mortar Battery was the first fighting contingent of the Thirty-third Division to reach home, and an enthusiastic reception was accorded it, largely through the work of the auxiliary formed a few weeks earlier. A banquet at the Stratford Hotel, which followed the parade of the battalion through the loop, was made the more enjoyable by the fact that the families of the soldiers were permitted to sit at the same tables with their boys. Officers of the auxiliary were: Mrs. Charles J. Kraft, president; Mrs. M. J. Lamb, vice-president; Mrs. Charles T. Henderson, secretary, and Mrs. Herman Bernstein, treasurer.



COVER OF THE SOUVENIR MENU  
Banquet and dance given by the Auxiliary.

### THE MACHINE GUN BATTALIONS

The auxiliary of the 122nd, 123rd and 124th Machine Gun Battalions was organized only a short time before the return of these units to the states. Plans for the recep-

tion of the soldiers were well perfected, however, and the welcome was one of the most stirring accorded to any unit returning to Chicago. Four hundred flower girls were stationed along the line of march. A banquet and dance were given in honor of the machine gunners at the Hotel Sherman in June. Officers of the auxiliary were: James C. Cahill, president; Captain William J. Grace, vice-president; Miss Rose Carney, secretary; Miss Lucy O'Brien, financial secretary, and Lieutenant J. E. Huguelet, treasurer. A permanent organization was effected in September, 1919, the returned soldiers being made members.



—Drawn by C. Le Roy Baldrige for The Stars and Stripes.













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